STATE OF NEW YORK

9853

IN ASSEMBLY

April 19, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. GONZALEZ-ROJAS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to determining a homeless person's eligibility for shelter at homeless housing

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 44-a to read as follows:

§ 44-a. Homeless housing and assistance program; eligibility. 1. For the purposes of this section the term "applicant" shall mean a homeless person who is applying for shelter at a homeless project.

2. No local department of social services shall deny an application for shelter at a homeless project that receives financial assistance pursuant to this article without a full review of the applicant's eligibility, including but not limited to a full review of such applicant's housing history. If an applicant is ineligible for shelter at a homeless project, the local department of social services shall provide documentation to the applicant on their ineligibility and undertake efforts as may be necessary and practicable to assist such applicant in applying for and obtaining appropriate governmental assistance. Such efforts shall include, to the best abilities of the local department of social services, contacting unknown individuals for the purposes of completing an applicant's temporary housing application.

3. The commissioner shall develop an employee training on determining an applicant's eligibility including but not limited to how to do a sufficient search of an applicant's housing history. Such training shall be implemented and conducted in conjunction with existing training, provided that new employees shall receive training within thirty days of their start date at the department or a local department of social services.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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