STATE OF NEW YORK

3223

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 28, 2021

Introduced by Sens. PERSAUD, KRUEGER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to allowing persons applying for or receiving public assistance to be interviewed by phone

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

Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 134-a of the social services law, as amended by chapter 219 of the laws of 1973, is amended to read as follows:

3. The social services official shall require that persons applying for or receiving public assistance and care be interviewed personally at a time and in a manner provided by the regulations of the department, **and such interview may be a phone interview at the social services official's option**. Applicants or recipients shall be excused from such requirements to avoid hardship, as defined by regulations of the department. Hardship shall include but not be limited to circumstances including infirmity, serious illness or physical disability.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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