STATE OF NEW YORK

6274

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 20, 2021

Introduced by Sen. MANNION -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Disabilities

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a pilot program to create a non-crisis, quick assistance hotline for individuals with both intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or complex behavioral needs

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

Section 1. Section 13.17 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new subdivision (e) to read as follows:

(e) 1. The commissioner shall establish a three-year pilot program to create a non-crisis, quick assistance hotline for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or complex behavioral needs. Such pilot program shall be administered by the office.

2. The quick assistance hotline shall be accessible via a toll-free phone number that operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

3. The office shall recruit and hire counselors to participate in such program. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities shall be able to call the hotline and describe any problems or issues they are having to a counselor, and such counselor shall then be able to provide necessary help, guidance, referral to services, and general information.

4. The hotline shall be accessible in up to one hundred seventy languages.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD10797-01-1