

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6928

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

May 20, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend public health law, in relation to the myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome education and outreach program

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 207 of the public health law is  
2 amended by adding a new paragraph (p) to read as follows:

3 (p) Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome ("ME/CFS"), a  
4 multi-system disease associated with neurological, immunological and  
5 energy metabolism impairment characterized by long-standing and debili-  
6 tating fatigue with a delayed exacerbation of symptoms and loss of  
7 stamina following even minimal mental or physical function; symptoms may  
8 also include cognitive dysfunction, sleep abnormalities, autonomic  
9 manifestations and pain; susceptibility may be genetic but the disease  
10 can be triggered by infection in the majority of patients. ME/CFS is a  
11 common chronic consequence of viruses, with ten to twelve percent of  
12 those with serious infection going on to develop the disease. Given that  
13 there are no diagnostic tests or biomarkers, and no federal food and  
14 drug administration approved treatments for ME/CFS, diagnosis and  
15 management of this disease can be more difficult. There are few clinical  
16 experts available in New York state, so education and awareness of  
17 health care providers and the public is imperative. Education materials  
18 shall include but not be limited to information about diagnosing ME/CFS  
19 including specific scientific information about what the disease is,  
20 what the symptoms are, who is susceptible and how patients are currently  
21 treated. ME/CFS education and awareness materials shall also include  
22 recognition that ME/CFS is a real disease, is not a psychiatric disorder,  
23 is not caused by a lack of exercise and that management of the  
24 disease can be more difficult as a result.

25 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
26 it shall have become a law.

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

LBD11614-01-1