

STATE OF NEW YORK

6956

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 20, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the social services law and the elder law, in relation to providing protective services to certain individuals

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

1 Section 1. Section 473 of the social services law is amended by adding
2 a new subdivision 9 to read as follows:

3 9. (a) Within amounts appropriated therefor, the office of children
4 and family services shall establish a statewide, toll-free telephone
5 number (a "hotline") to receive reports consistent with subdivision one
6 of this section. The hotline shall receive reports of allegations of
7 reportable incidents twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week. The
8 hotline shall accept anonymous calls.

9 (b) When any allegation that could reasonably constitute a reportable
10 incident is received by the hotline, the hotline shall accept and imme-
11 diately transmit notice of the report orally and electronically to any
12 appropriate state agencies or local social services office. Whenever a
13 telephone call or electronic transmission to the hotline alleges an act
14 or circumstances that may constitute a criminal offense or an immediate
15 threat to an individual's health, safety or welfare, the hotline shall
16 convey, by the most expedient means available, the information contained
17 in such call or transmission to the appropriate law enforcement agency
18 or district attorney and, to the extent necessary, the appropriate emer-
19 gency responder, and the relevant state agency or local social services
20 office.

21 (c) The commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations
22 to facilitate the implementation and operation of the hotline, including
23 but not limited to, procedures for timely and accurate referrals to
24 other state agencies or entities that may have investigative or over-
25 sight authority regarding reported incidents.

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

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1 § 2. Subdivision 16 of section 202 of the elder law, as amended by
2 section 1 of subpart J of part XX of chapter 55 of the laws of 2020, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 16. to the extent appropriations are available, and in consultation
5 with the office of children and family services, conduct a public educa-
6 tion campaign that emphasizes zero-tolerance for elder abuse. Such
7 campaign shall include information about the signs and symptoms of elder
8 abuse, identification of potential causes of elder abuse, resources
9 available to assist in the prevention of elder abuse, where suspected
10 elder abuse can be reported, including, but not limited to, information
11 regarding the statewide hotline as provided for in paragraph (a) of
12 subdivision nine of section four hundred seventy-three of the social
13 services law, contact information for programs offering services to
14 victims of elder abuse such as counseling, and assistance with arranging
15 personal care and shelter. Such campaign may include, but not be limited
16 to: printed educational and informational materials; audio, video, elec-
17 tronic, other media; and public service announcements or advertisements;
18 and

19 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
20 it shall have become a law.