STATE OF NEW YORK

8206

IN SENATE

February 2, 2022

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

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing the office of hospice and palliative care access and quality

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

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 4003 to read as follows:

§ 4003. Director of hospice and palliative care access and quality. 1. The office of hospice and palliative care access and quality is hereby created within the department. The commissioner shall appoint a director of the office and may employ such assistants and personnel as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this article.

2. The office shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) to improve patient care for individuals with chronic or life-limiting illnesses;

(b) to facilitate communication between the department and hospice and palliative care providers;

(c) to raise awareness and access to hospice and palliative care services;

(d) to identify and eliminate barriers to such services; and

(e) to ensure equitable access to hospice and palliative care services by underrepresented communities across New York State.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth 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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