STATE OF NEW YORK

1665

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 17, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. SANTABARBARA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to creating autism teams in hospitals

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 2831 to read as follows:

§ 2831. Autism teams. 1. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, to expand current medical providers' knowledge about autism, the department shall design and provide specialized training on autism through medical continuing education programs for primary care physicians, neurologists, psychiatrists, dentists, emergency room personnel and other medical specialists.

2. Once the training on autism is implemented, the department shall design a pilot program to ultimately develop one "autism team" who may be called upon should a patient with autism enter the emergency room of a hospital, need tests or x-rays, or need to be admitted. Members of the autism team shall have completed the specialized training on autism and shall be knowledgeable about autism and communication difficulties many people with autism have and advise physicians and other staff on how to communicate with patients with autism.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth 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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