STATE OF NEW YORK

5871

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 23, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. DAVILA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to providing public assistance for home internet service

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 131-a of the social services law, as amended by section 12 of part B of chapter 436 of the laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

1. Any inconsistent provision of this chapter or other law notwithstanding, social services officials shall, in accordance with the provisions of this section and regulations of the department, provide public assistance to needy persons who constitute or are members of a family household, who are determined to be eligible in accordance with standards of need established in subdivision two **of this section**. Provision for such persons, for all items of need, less any available income or resources which are not required to be disregarded by other provisions of this chapter, shall be made in accordance with this section. Such provision shall be made in monthly or semi-monthly allowances and grants within the limits of the schedules included in subdivision three of this section except for additional amounts which shall be included therein for shelter, fuel for heating, **home internet service,** additional cost of meals for persons who are unable to prepare meals at home and for other items for which specific provision is otherwise made in **this** article [~~five~~]. As used in this section the term "shelter" may include a grant not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars toward the purchase of an interest in a cooperative. A social services official shall require assignment of recipient's equity in such cooperative housing in accordance with the rules of the board and regulations of the department.

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

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§ 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 131-a of the social services law, as amended by chapter 87 of the laws of 1993, is amended to read as follows:

(b) In addition to the above, the standard of need shall include amounts for shelter and fuel for heating, amounts for home energy payments (including amounts for supplemental home energy grants), **amounts for home internet service payments,** amounts for additional cost of meals for persons who are unable to prepare meals at home and amounts for other items when required by individual case circumstances for which specific provision is otherwise made in **this** article [~~**five of this chapter**~~]. For purposes of determining the amount to be included in the standard of need for shelter and fuel for heating, to the extent that federal reimbursement is available therefor, social services officials shall include in the household any child who has entered foster care pursuant to section three hundred eighty-four-a of this chapter who was eligible for and in receipt of assistance and care as a member of the household in and for the month of entry into foster care and for whom the family service plan, as defined in section four hundred nine-e of this chapter, includes a goal of discharge to a member of the household.

§ 3. 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.