STATE OF NEW YORK

7341--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 17, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families -- reported and referred to the Committee on Rules -- Rules Committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to allowing for child protective services workers to complete certain required training through distance learning methods

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 5 of section 421 of the social services law, as amended by chapter 525 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

(b) promulgate regulations setting forth training requirements which shall specify, among other things, that all persons hired by a child protective service on or after April first, nineteen hundred eighty-six shall have satisfactorily completed a course approved by the department within the first three months of employment, in the fundamentals of child protection**, provided, however, that on or after April first, two thousand twenty-four, such course may be satisfactorily completed through distance learning methods which evince that all participants are in attendance for the duration of the course and are able to ask questions of the instructor, excluding the annual in service training requirement**. Such course shall include at least basic training in the principles and techniques of investigations, including relationships with other investigative bodies, legal issues in child protection, and methods of remediation, diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Such regulations shall also specify that all persons employed by a child protective service on or after December first, two thousand six shall satisfactorily complete six hours of annual in service training, beginning in their second year of employment. Such annual in service training shall include, but is not limited to, review of the protocols for identifica-

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

LBD10845-03-3

tion and investigation of child abuse and maltreatment, any developments in legal, treatment and prevention issues in child protection, and review and analysis of field experiences of child protective services workers.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 423 of the social services law is amended by adding a new paragraph (f) to read as follows:

(f) every local department of social services may prepare and submit to the commissioner, including the determination mentioned herein, a request to fulfill the training requirements, as specified by paragraph (b) of subdivision five of section four hundred twenty-one of this title, through distance learning methods, upon a determination by a local department of social services that the use of such distance learning methods shall be beneficial to the performance of those functions assigned by this title to the child protective service, provided, however, that such distance learning methods shall not be used for the annual in service training requirement.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.