STATE OF NEW YORK

8341

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

December 13, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT authorizing and directing the office of children and family services to conduct a study on the family assessment response program; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. The office of children and family services, in conjunction with the inspector general, is authorized and directed to conduct a study on the family assessment response program. Such study shall:

(a) determine if the program is accomplishing the program's intended goals;

(b) determine if the program is being operated as designed;

(c) identify areas where the program can be improved;

(d) suggest changes to the program to improve areas where the program needs improvement;

(e) specify why certain areas of the program require changes;

(f) identify if the application and/or approval process localities utilize for approval of family assessment response program plans require updates or modifications;

(g) determine if the program is worth expanding across the state, making the program either an opt-out or mandatory program;

(h) examine the potential mandated expansion of the family assessment response program in the state of New York, including, but not limited to:

(i) how has the program worked in localities which have adopted such family assessment response program via application approved by the office of children and family services;

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

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(ii) the frequency with which child protective services' investigations are initiated into a familial unit within six months of such familial unit completing a family assessment response case; and

(iii) the percentage of children alleged to be maltreated in a family assessment response case who are later determined to be maltreated in a subsequent child protective services' investigation within six months of the closure of such family assessment response case; and

(i) study anything else the office of children and family services or the inspector general determines necessary to determine if the family assessment response program is working as designed, if it can be improved, and if it is worth expanding and/or mandating state-wide.

§ 2. The office of children and family services, in conjunction with the inspector general, shall publish a report containing the findings of the study. Such report shall be delivered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly no later than one year after the effective date of this act.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed two years after such effective date.