

STATE OF NEW YORK

8484

IN ASSEMBLY

January 4, 2024

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

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents; and to amend a chapter of the laws of 2023 amending the social services law relating to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5897 and A. 2176, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

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

Section 1. Subdivision (1) of section 17 of the social services law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2023 amending the social services law relating to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5897 and A. 2176, is amended to read as follows:

(1) [~~submit a report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the assembly and the minority leader of the senate~~] make information publicly available on its website beginning December thirty-first, two thousand [~~twenty-four~~] twenty-three, and biannually thereafter, regarding youth placed in foster care settings and the recruitment of foster parents. Such report shall be made publicly available online and shall provide information, as required pursuant to this subdivision, aggregated by local social services districts and foster care settings. For the purposes of this subdivision, foster care settings shall include, but not be limited to, foster boarding homes, approved relative homes, group homes, group residences, agency operated boarding homes, supervised independent living arrangements, [~~therapeutic foster care~~] and child care institutions. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

(i) the total number of youth placed in a foster care setting at the time of the report, as well as a comparison to the total number of youth in care since the previous report was submitted;

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

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(ii) to the extent practicable, the reasons why such youth have been placed in a foster care setting, with the total number of youth per category at the time of the report. Such reasons ~~[shall]~~ may include, but not be limited to, voluntary placement pursuant to section three hundred fifty-eight-a of this chapter, a termination of parental rights pursuant to section three hundred eighty-four-b of this chapter, placements pursuant to articles ten and ten-C of the family court act, or pursuant to a contract, grant or other agreement with the federal government;

(iii) to the extent such information is available, the total number of youth placed in a foster care setting ~~[at the time of the report]~~ that are in need of or receiving specialized educational services~~[, either due to a mental health illness or another disorder that may require additional supports and services, including specialized educational services]~~;

(iv) to the extent such information is ~~[available]~~ applicable, how many youth ~~[at the time of the report]~~ have been previously placed in a foster care setting in the state;

(v) the total number of foster families that are currently certified in the state at the time of the report and whether that number has increased or decreased since the previous report was submitted;

(vi) to the extent such information is available, how many children and/or families have received preventive services through a local social services district, and of those children and/or families, how many youth ~~[were successfully kept out of]~~ subsequently entered foster care ~~[due to such services]~~ within the last calendar year for the initial report, and then since the previous report was submitted for all subsequent reports;

(vii) the total number of placement options that have been certified as a qualified residential treatment program, as defined by ~~[42-USCS § 672]~~ subdivision four of section four hundred nine-h of this chapter; and

(viii) a description of the efforts the state has taken to assist local social services districts and voluntary agencies to recruit and retain foster parents in the state.

§ 2. Section 3 of a chapter of the laws of 2023 amending the social services law relating to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5897 and A. 2176, is amended to read as follows:

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed December 31, 2025.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that section one of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2023, amending the social services law relating to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5897 and A. 2176, takes effect.