STATE OF NEW YORK

2496

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 20, 2023

Introduced by Sens. MANNION, COONEY, MAYER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to requiring social services districts to automatically re-enroll eligible persons or households for the low-income home energy assistance program

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

Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 97 of the social services law, as added by chapter 785 of the laws of 1983, is amended to read as follows:

2. **a.** Each social services district shall be required, in accordance with the state plan and federal regulations, to participate in the federal low-income home energy assistance program and to assist eligible households found in such districts to obtain low-income home energy assistance. However, only those persons who qualify for low-income home energy assistance in accordance with federal and state requirements, and standards promulgated by the department, shall be certified as eligible for and entitled to receive said home energy assistance. No person, however, shall be certified as eligible for and entitled to receive said home energy assistance if no federal funds are available for such purpose.

b. Each social services district shall every heating season automatically re-enroll persons or households who are receiving home energy assistance through the low-income home energy assistance program, so long as such persons or households continue to meet the federal and state eligibility requirements and standards. For purposes of this section, "heating season" shall mean the time period designated by the office of temporary and disability assistance each year.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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