

STATE OF NEW YORK

2542

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 23, 2023

Introduced by Sen. RAMOS -- 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 training and education for sustainable wage jobs and traditional and nontraditional employment in public assistance employment programs

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 330 of the social services law, as amended by section 148 of part B of chapter 436 of the laws of 1997, paragraphs a and b as amended by section 2 of part C of chapter 57 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

1. Whenever used in this title:

a. the term "commissioner" means the commissioner of the state office of temporary and disability assistance; ~~and~~

b. the term "department" means the state office of temporary and disability assistance;

c. the term "nontraditional employment" means occupations or fields of work, including careers in the skilled trades, or computer science, technology and other emerging high skill occupations, for which any one gender comprises less than twenty-five percent of the individuals employed in each such occupation or field of work according to federal department of labor statistics; and

d. the term "sustainable wage" means a wage that is at least one hundred eighty-five percent of the poverty line and that is adjusted for regional factors.

§ 2. The second undesignated paragraph of section 333 of the social services law, as amended by section 148 of part B of chapter 436 of the laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

Such plan shall be developed in cooperation and coordination with public and private education institutions, child care providers, child care resource and referral agencies if available in the district, labor

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

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1 unions, libraries, public and private employers, employment and training
2 agencies and organizations, and private industry councils established in
3 service delivery areas defined in subdivision five of section nine
4 hundred seventy-one of the executive law. Such plan shall strongly
5 consider, for individuals who have obtained a high school diploma or a
6 general equivalency diploma (GED), training for sustainable wage jobs
7 and promote nontraditional employment opportunities for such partic-
8 ipants; provided that any individual's preparation for employment shall
9 be consistent with federal and state work participation requirements.

10 § 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 334 of the social
11 services law, as amended by section 148 of part B of chapter 436 of the
12 laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

13 (a) education, employment and training opportunities available under
14 the local plan, including: (i) education and training for sustainable
15 wage jobs and nontraditional employment opportunities; and (ii) educa-
16 tional and training opportunities available at no cost to the partic-
17 ipant as well as the responsibilities associated with the repayment of
18 student financial aid;

19 § 4. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 335 of the social
20 services law, as amended by section 148 of part B of chapter 436 of the
21 laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

22 (a) Based on the assessment required by subdivision one of this
23 section, the social services official, in consultation with the partic-
24 ipant, shall develop an employability plan in writing which shall set
25 forth the services that will be provided by the social services offi-
26 cial, including but not limited to child care and other services and the
27 activities in which the participant will take part, including child care
28 and other services and shall set forth an employment goal for the
29 participant. To the extent possible, the employability plan shall
30 reflect the preferences of the participant in a manner that is consist-
31 ent with the results of the participant's assessment and the need of the
32 social services district to meet federal and state work activity partic-
33 ipation requirements, and, if such preferences cannot be accommodated,
34 the reasons shall be specified in the employability plan. The employa-
35 bility plan shall also take into account the participant's supportive
36 services needs, available program resources, local employment opportu-
37 nities, and shall strongly consider, for individuals who have obtained a
38 high school diploma or a general equivalency diploma (GED), the poten-
39 tial for available employment that pays a sustainable wage; provided
40 that any individual's preparation for employment shall be consistent
41 with federal and state work participation requirements; and where the
42 social services official is considering an educational activity assign-
43 ment for such participant, the participant's liability for student
44 loans, grants and scholarship awards. The employability plan shall be
45 explained to the participant. Any change to the participant's employa-
46 bility plan required by the social services official shall be discussed
47 with the participant and shall be documented in writing.

48 § 5. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 335-a of the social
49 services law, as amended by section 1 of part J of chapter 58 of the
50 laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

51 (a) Based on the assessment required by subdivision one of this
52 section, the social services official, in consultation with the partic-
53 ipant, shall develop an employability plan in writing which shall set
54 forth the services that will be provided by the social services official
55 and the activities in which the participant will take part, including
56 supportive services and shall set forth an employment goal for the

1 participant. To the extent possible, the employability plan shall
2 reflect the preferences of the participant in a manner that is consist-
3 ent with the results of the participant's assessment and the need of the
4 social services district to meet federal and state work activity partic-
5 ipation requirements, and, if such preferences cannot be accommodated,
6 the reasons shall be specified in the employability plan. The employa-
7 bility plan also shall take into account the participant's supportive
8 services needs, available program resources, local employment opportu-
9 nities, and shall strongly consider, for individual's who have obtained
10 a high school diploma or a general equivalency diploma (GED), the poten-
11 tial for available employment that pays a sustainable wage; provided
12 that any individual's preparation for employment shall be consistent
13 with federal and state work participation requirements; and where the
14 social services official is considering an educational activity assign-
15 ment for such participant, the participant's liability for student
16 loans, grants and scholarship awards. The employability plan shall be
17 explained to the participant. Any change to the participant's employa-
18 bility plan required by the social services official shall be discussed
19 with the participant and shall be documented in writing.

20 § 6. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
21 it shall have become a law, and shall apply to employability plans made
22 or updated on and after such effective date.