

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6499

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

April 24, 2023

Introduced by Sens. KENNEDY, MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing an intensive addiction recovery and mental health integrated services pilot 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:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 "Topher's Law".

3 § 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section  
4 19.18-d to read as follows:

5 § 19.18-d Intensive addiction and mental health integrated services  
6 pilot program.

7 1. Within the funds appropriated to the office, a pilot program shall  
8 be established to support two three-year demonstration programs that  
9 provide intensive addiction and mental health integrated services to  
10 individuals with significant addiction and mental health issues who have  
11 had multiple and frequent treatment episodes. One of the demonstration  
12 programs shall be located in a rural area and one shall be located in an  
13 urban setting as determined by the commissioner. The services provided  
14 shall include but not be limited to mental health counseling services  
15 for the individual experiencing significant addiction and mental health  
16 issues and their family, peer supports, and transportation assistance.  
17 Such services shall be primarily provided in the community or home of  
18 such individual, as clinically and socially necessitated.

19 2. Not later than June thirtieth, two thousand twenty-six, and annual-  
20 ly thereafter, the commissioner shall provide the governor, the tempo-  
21 rary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chair of  
22 the senate standing committee on alcoholism and drug abuse, and the

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

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1 chair of the assembly committee on alcoholism and drug abuse with a  
2 written evaluation of the demonstration programs established pursuant to  
3 subdivision one of this section. Such evaluation shall, at a minimum,  
4 address the overall effectiveness of such demonstration programs, iden-  
5 tify best practices for services provided under the demonstration  
6 programs and any additional services that may be appropriate within each  
7 type of program operated, regulated, funded, or approved by the office,  
8 and address whether continuation or expansion of the pilot program  
9 established by subdivision one of this section is recommended. The  
10 written evaluation shall be made publicly available on the office's  
11 website.

12 § 3. This act shall take effect April 1, 2024 and shall expire March  
13 31, 2027 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed  
14 repealed.