

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1665

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 17, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. SANTABARBARA -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to creating autism  
teams in hospitals

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

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section  
2 2831 to read as follows:  
3 § 2831. Autism teams. 1. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation  
4 to the contrary, to expand current medical providers' knowledge about  
5 autism, the department shall design and provide specialized training on  
6 autism through medical continuing education programs for primary care  
7 physicians, neurologists, psychiatrists, dentists, emergency room  
8 personnel and other medical specialists.  
9 2. Once the training on autism is implemented, the department shall  
10 design a pilot program to ultimately develop one "autism team" who may  
11 be called upon should a patient with autism enter the emergency room of  
12 a hospital, need tests or x-rays, or need to be admitted. Members of the  
13 autism team shall have completed the specialized training on autism and  
14 shall be knowledgeable about autism and communication difficulties many  
15 people with autism have and advise physicians and other staff on how to  
16 communicate with patients with autism.  
17 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
18 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or  
19 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of  
20 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed  
21 on or before such effective date.

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

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