STATE OF NEW YORK

1730

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2023

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to providing elder abuse prevention training

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

Section 1. The elder law is amended by adding a new section 219-a to read as follows:

219-a. Elder abuse awareness and prevention training. 1. The director shall, in cooperation with the office of children and family services and the division of state police:

(a) develop, maintain and disseminate educational material relating to abuse of adults, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, active neglect, passive neglect, self neglect, and financial exploitation, as such terms are defined in section four hundred seventy-three of the social services law,

(b) establish and implement written procedures and policies for senior centers and contractors in the event employees of senior centers and employees of entities that contract with the office and the office of children and family services encounters such abuse, including the provision of information and referral, and

(c) nothing in this section shall prevent the office from utilizing materials in section two hundred nineteen of this title.

2. (a) The director shall develop a program to train senior service providers in the detection and reporting of elder abuse. Such program shall also include training on the counseling of elder abuse victims.

(b) The director shall require that employees of senior centers and employees of entities that contract with the office and the office of children and family services to provide services to senior citizens, be trained in elder abuse detection, reporting and counseling, and receive supplemental refresher training regarding the same at least once every

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

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three years, if such employee has or is expected to have significant and direct person to person contact with senior citizens.

(c) The director shall require senior centers to hold at least two educational sessions per year during which guests and members of the senior center will receive counseling regarding elder abuse prevention and awareness and be instructed on how to detect and report instances of elder abuse.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.