

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2907

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 25, 2023

Introduced by Sens. PERSAUD, GRIFFO -- read twice and ordered printed,  
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, the social services law, the limited  
liability company law and the partnership law, in relation to the  
licensing of vision impairment specialists; and providing for the  
repeal of certain provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new article 169 to  
2 read as follows:

### ARTICLE 169

#### VISION IMPAIRMENT SPECIALISTS

##### Section 8900. Introduction.

##### 8901. Definitions.

##### 8902. Use of titles.

##### 8903. State board for vision impairment specialists.

##### 8904. Requirements for a license with a specialization as an orientation and mobility specialist.

##### 8905. Requirements for a license with a specialization as a vision rehabilitation therapist.

##### 8906. Limited permits.

##### 8907. Exempt persons.

##### 8908. Special provisions.

##### 8909. Separability.

17 § 8900. Introduction. This article applies to the profession of vision  
18 impairment specialists, and provides for the licensing of orientation  
19 and mobility specialists and vision rehabilitation therapists. The  
20 general provisions for all professions contained in article one hundred  
21 thirty of this title shall apply to this article.

22 § 8901. Definitions. For purposes of this article, the following terms  
23 shall have the following meanings:

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

LBD05271-01-3

1 1. The practice of "vision impairment specialist" shall mean providing  
2 assessment and evaluation of, and training for, persons who are visually  
3 impaired when such assessment, evaluation and training incorporates the  
4 full range of specialized skills and tasks subsumed in the specializa-  
5 tions of the profession defined in this section as: (a) orientation and  
6 mobility training, and (b) vision rehabilitation therapy. Such services  
7 shall be rendered on the prescription or referral which may be directive  
8 as to treatment by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, ophthalmol-  
9 ogist or optometrist, provided however that no such treatment directive  
10 and low vision examination shall be required when the person being  
11 referred has been diagnosed within the previous twelve months as visual-  
12 ly impaired, blind or legally blind as those terms are defined in subdi-  
13 vision six of this section and such services are being rendered consist-  
14 ent with that diagnosis, prescription or referral. Vision rehabilitation  
15 therapists, and orientation and mobility specialists may not prescribe  
16 optical low vision devices.

17 2. The practice of "vision impairment specialist" shall mean one who  
18 specializes in orientation and mobility training and/or vision rehabili-  
19 tation therapy.

20 3. The practice of "orientation and mobility training" shall mean:

21 (a) the assessment of individual needs of persons who are visually  
22 impaired for skills training in methods of safe movement and in strate-  
23 gies to gather required environmental and spatial information; (b) the  
24 development of appropriate integrated service plans tailored to meet  
25 such individual needs as identified in such assessment process; (c) the  
26 provision of training in, and utilization of (i) equipment and adaptive  
27 devices intended and designed for use by persons who are visually  
28 impaired, and (ii) specialized techniques adapted for persons who are  
29 visually impaired, including but not limited to orientation; sensory  
30 development; systems of safe movement, including long cane techniques;  
31 resource identification and, as appropriate, professional referrals;  
32 and, in applied settings, reinforcing instruction for the use of optical  
33 devices as prescribed by optometrists and ophthalmologists; and (d) the  
34 evaluation of clients receiving such specialized training.

35 4. The practice of "vision rehabilitation therapy" shall mean: (a) the  
36 assessment of individual needs of persons who are visually impaired for  
37 skills training in independent living and communications; (b) the devel-  
38 opment of appropriate integrated service plans tailored to meet such  
39 individual needs as identified in such assessment process; (c) the  
40 provision of training in, and utilization of (i) equipment and adaptive  
41 devices intended and designed for use by persons who are visually  
42 impaired, including, in applied settings, reinforcing instruction for  
43 the use of optical devices as prescribed by optometrists or ophthalmolo-  
44 gists, and (ii) specialized techniques adapted for persons who are visu-  
45 ally impaired, including but not limited to Braille and other communi-  
46 cation skills; adapted computer technology; personal management skills;  
47 home management skills; problem solving skills; resource management and,  
48 as appropriate, professional referrals; and (d) the evaluation of  
49 persons receiving such specialized training.

50 5. "Applied settings" means those locations where persons who are  
51 visually impaired engage in day-to-day activities utilizing the tools  
52 supplied and techniques taught by the licensed practitioners defined in  
53 this article.

54 6. "Visually impaired" means a person who is totally blind, legally  
55 blind or partially sighted. A person who is totally blind is one who has  
56 no useable vision. A person who is legally blind is one who satisfies

1 the definition set forth in subdivision b of section three of chapter  
2 four hundred fifteen of the laws of nineteen hundred thirteen. A person  
3 who is partially sighted is one who has functional vision impairment  
4 that constitutes a significant limitation of visual capability resulting  
5 from disease, trauma, or congenital condition, that cannot be fully  
6 ameliorated by standard refractive correction, medication, or surgery,  
7 and that is manifested by one or more of the following: insufficient  
8 visual resolution, inadequate field of vision or reduced peak contrast  
9 sensitivity.

10 7. "Board" shall mean the state board for vision impairment special-  
11 ists as provided for in section eighty-nine hundred three of this arti-  
12 cle.

13 § 8902. Use of titles. Only a person licensed or otherwise authorized  
14 under this article shall be authorized to practice as a vision impair-  
15 ment specialist or use the title "licensed orientation and mobility  
16 specialist" or "licensed vision rehabilitation therapist" in connection  
17 with his or her name or with any trade name in the conduct of his or her  
18 profession.

19 § 8903. State board for vision impairment specialists. A state board  
20 for vision impairment specialists shall be appointed by the board of  
21 regents upon the recommendation of the commissioner for the purpose of  
22 assisting the board of regents and the department on matters of profes-  
23 sional licensing and professional conduct in accordance with section  
24 sixty-five hundred eight of this title. The board shall consist of not  
25 less than nine individuals, two of whom shall be licensed orientation  
26 and mobility specialists, two of whom shall be licensed vision rehabili-  
27 tation therapists, one ophthalmologist, one optometrist, one public  
28 representative as defined in paragraph b of subdivision one of section  
29 sixty-five hundred eight of this title and two of whom shall be blind  
30 representatives of the public at large whose names will be placed in  
31 nomination for the board from organizations of the blind or visually  
32 impaired. Members of the initial board need not be licensed or certified  
33 prior to their appointment to the board, so long as they are certified  
34 by a national certifying or accrediting board, acceptable to the depart-  
35 ment. Of the members first appointed, two shall be appointed for a  
36 three-year term, three shall be appointed for a four-year term, and  
37 three shall be appointed for a five-year term. Thereafter all members  
38 shall serve for five-year terms. In the event that more than eight  
39 members are appointed, a majority of the additional members shall be  
40 licensed orientation and mobility specialists and licensed vision reha-  
41 bilitation therapists. The members of the board shall select one of  
42 themselves as chair to serve for a one-year term. An executive secretary  
43 shall be appointed by the board of regents upon the recommendation of  
44 the commissioner.

45 § 8904. Requirements for a license with a specialization as an orien-  
46 tation and mobility specialist. To qualify for a license as an orien-  
47 tation and mobility specialist, an applicant shall fulfill the following  
48 requirements:

49 1. Application: file an application with the department;

50 2. Education: have satisfactorily completed an approved curriculum in  
51 orientation and mobility services including visual disabilities, vision  
52 education, vision impairment or other equivalent program in a baccalau-  
53 reate or graduate level program or a foreign equivalent, satisfactory to  
54 the department and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;

55 3. Examination: pass an examination satisfactory to the department in  
56 accordance with the commissioner's regulations;

1 4. Age: be at least twenty-one years of age;  
2 5. Character: be of good moral character as determined by the depart-  
3 ment; and

4 6. Registration: all licensed orientation and mobility specialists  
5 shall register triennially with the department in accordance with the  
6 commissioner's regulation.

7 7. Fee: a fee of two hundred dollars for an initial license and a fee  
8 of one hundred fifty dollars for each triennial registration period.

9 § 8905. Requirements for a license with a specialization as a vision  
10 rehabilitation therapist. To qualify for a license as a vision rehabili-  
11 tation therapist an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

12 1. Application: file an application with the department;

13 2. Education: have satisfactorily completed an approved curriculum in  
14 vision rehabilitation therapy including visual disabilities, vision  
15 education, vision impairment or other equivalent program in a baccalau-  
16 reate or graduate level program, or a foreign equivalent, satisfactory  
17 to the department and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;

18 3. Examination: pass an examination satisfactory to the department in  
19 accordance with the commissioner's regulations;

20 4. Age: be at least twenty-one years of age;

21 5. Character: be of good moral character as determined by the depart-  
22 ment; and

23 6. Registration: all licensed vision rehabilitation therapists shall  
24 register triennially with the department in accordance with the commis-  
25 sioner's regulations.

26 7. Fee: a fee of two hundred dollars for an initial license and a fee  
27 of one hundred fifty dollars for each triennial registration period.

28 § 8906. Limited permits. The following requirements for a limited  
29 permit shall apply to all professions licensed or certified pursuant to  
30 this article:

31 1. On the recommendation of the board, the department may issue a  
32 limited permit to an applicant who meets the education requirements for  
33 licensure, except the examination and/or experience requirements, in  
34 accordance with regulations promulgated therefor.

35 2. Limited permits shall be for one year and may be renewed, at the  
36 discretion of the department, for one additional year.

37 3. The fee for each limited permit and for each renewal shall be  
38 seventy dollars.

39 4. A limited permit holder shall practice only under supervision as  
40 determined in accordance with the commissioner's regulations.

41 § 8907. Exempt persons. This article shall not be construed to affect  
42 or prevent the following, provided that no title, sign, card or device  
43 shall be used in such manner as to tend to convey the impression that  
44 the person rendering such service is a licensed vision impairment  
45 specialist:

46 1. The practice of licensed vision impairment specialist as an inte-  
47 gral part of a program of study by students enrolled in approved educa-  
48 tional or training programs in (a) orientation and mobility training or  
49 (b) vision rehabilitation therapy.

50 2. Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to limit the  
51 scopes of practice of any other profession licensed under this title;  
52 provided, however, that such practitioners may not hold themselves out  
53 under the titles "licensed vision impairment specialist", and/or  
54 "licensed vision impairment specialist with a specialization in orien-  
55 tation and mobility", and/or "licensed vision impairment specialist with  
56 a specialization in vision rehabilitation therapy".

3. Nothing in this article shall be construed as prohibiting a person from performing the duties of a licensed vision impairment specialist, in the course of such employment, if such person is employed by a federal, state, county, town, city or village agency or other political subdivision except that this exception from licensure shall not apply to persons employed by institutions regulated primarily by the education department.

4. This article shall not be construed to prohibit care delivered by any family member, household member or friend, or person employed primarily in a domestic capacity who does not hold himself or herself out, or accept employment, as a person licensed to practice as a vision impairment specialist under the provisions of this article; provided, however, that if such person is remunerated, the person does not hold himself or herself out as one who accepts employment for performing such care.

5. The instruction in the use of a dog guide.

6. Nothing in this article shall be construed as prohibiting a licensed teacher of the visually impaired from performing any of the duties, tasks or responsibilities within that scope of practice.

7. The instruction in the use of Braille.

§ 8908. Special provisions. An individual who meets the requirements for a license as a licensed vision impairment specialist with a specialization in orientation and mobility and/or vision rehabilitation, except for examination, experience and education, and who is certified or registered by a national certifying body having certification or registration standards acceptable to the commissioner, or an individual who has worked as a vision impairment specialist focused on vision rehabilitation therapy and/or orientation and mobility in a workplace setting which is primarily devoted to the treatment of individuals with vision loss and blindness for at least three years, may be licensed, without meeting additional requirements as to examination, experience and education, provided that such individual submits an application to the department within three years of the effective date of this section.

§ 8909. Separability. If any section of this article, or part thereof, shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of any other section or part thereof.

§ 2. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph a of subdivision 1 of section 6503-a of the education law, as amended by chapter 554 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

(i) services provided under article one hundred fifty-four, one hundred sixty-three ~~[e]~~, one hundred sixty-seven or article one hundred sixty-nine of this title for which licensure would be required, or

§ 3. Paragraph a of subdivision 3 of section 6507 of the education law, as amended by chapter 479 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

a. Establish standards for preprofessional and professional education, experience and licensing examinations as required to implement the article for each profession. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner shall establish standards requiring that all persons applying, on or after January first, nineteen hundred ninety-one, initially, or for the renewal of, a license, registration or limited permit to be a physician, chiropractor, dentist, registered nurse, podiatrist, optometrist, psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed master social worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed creative arts therapist, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor, licensed psychoanalyst, dental hygienist, licensed behavior



1 analyst, ~~[or]~~ certified behavior analyst assistant, or licensed vision  
2 impairment specialist shall, in addition to all the other licensure,  
3 certification or permit requirements, have completed two hours of  
4 coursework or training regarding the identification and reporting of  
5 child abuse and maltreatment. The coursework or training shall be  
6 obtained from an institution or provider which has been approved by the  
7 department to provide such coursework or training. The coursework or  
8 training shall include information regarding the physical and behavioral  
9 indicators of child abuse and maltreatment and the statutory reporting  
10 requirements set out in sections four hundred thirteen through four  
11 hundred twenty of the social services law, including but not limited to,  
12 when and how a report must be made, what other actions the reporter is  
13 mandated or authorized to take, the legal protections afforded repor-  
14 ters, and the consequences for failing to report. Such coursework or  
15 training may also include information regarding the physical and behav-  
16 ioral indicators of the abuse of individuals with developmental disabil-  
17 ities and voluntary reporting of abused or neglected adults to the  
18 office for people with developmental disabilities or the local adult  
19 protective services unit. Each applicant shall provide the department  
20 with documentation showing that he or she has completed the required  
21 training. The department shall provide an exemption from the child abuse  
22 and maltreatment training requirements to any applicant who requests  
23 such an exemption and who shows, to the department's satisfaction, that  
24 there would be no need because of the nature of his or her practice for  
25 him or her to complete such training;

26 § 4. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 413 of the social  
27 services law, as amended by section 7 of part C of chapter 57 of the  
28 laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

29 (a) The following persons and officials are required to report or  
30 cause a report to be made in accordance with this title when they have  
31 reasonable cause to suspect that a child coming before them in their  
32 professional or official capacity is an abused or maltreated child, or  
33 when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is an abused or  
34 maltreated child where the parent, guardian, custodian or other person  
35 legally responsible for such child comes before them in their profes-  
36 sional or official capacity and states from personal knowledge facts,  
37 conditions or circumstances which, if correct, would render the child an  
38 abused or maltreated child: any physician; registered physician assist-  
39 ant; surgeon; medical examiner; coroner; dentist; dental hygienist;  
40 osteopath; optometrist; chiropractor; podiatrist; resident; intern;  
41 psychologist; registered nurse; social worker; emergency medical techni-  
42 cian; licensed creative arts therapist; licensed marriage and family  
43 therapist; licensed mental health counselor; licensed psychoanalyst;  
44 licensed behavior analyst; certified behavior analyst assistant;  
45 licensed vision impairment specialist; hospital personnel engaged in the  
46 admission, examination, care or treatment of persons; a Christian  
47 Science practitioner; school official, which includes but is not limited  
48 to school teacher, school guidance counselor, school psychologist,  
49 school social worker, school nurse, school administrator or other school  
50 personnel required to hold a teaching or administrative license or  
51 certificate; full or part-time compensated school employee required to  
52 hold a temporary coaching license or professional coaching certificate;  
53 social services worker; employee of a publicly-funded emergency shelter  
54 for families with children; director of a children's overnight camp,  
55 summer day camp or traveling summer day camp, as such camps are defined  
56 in section thirteen hundred ninety-two of the public health law; day

1 care center worker; school-age child care worker; provider of family or  
2 group family day care; employee or volunteer in a residential care  
3 facility for children that is licensed, certified or operated by the  
4 office of children and family services; or any other child care or  
5 foster care worker; mental health professional; substance abuse counse-  
6 lor; alcoholism counselor; all persons credentialed by the office of  
7 alcoholism and substance abuse services; employees, who are expected to  
8 have regular and substantial contact with children, of a health home or  
9 health home care management agency contracting with a health home as  
10 designated by the department of health and authorized under section  
11 three hundred sixty-five-1 of this chapter or such employees who provide  
12 home and community based services under a demonstration program pursuant  
13 to section eleven hundred fifteen of the federal social security act who  
14 are expected to have regular and substantial contact with children;  
15 peace officer; police officer; district attorney or assistant district  
16 attorney; investigator employed in the office of a district attorney; or  
17 other law enforcement official.

18 § 5. Section 6505-b of the education law, as amended by chapter 10 of  
19 the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

20 § 6505-b. Course work or training in infection control practices.  
21 Every dentist, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, vision  
22 impairment specialist, podiatrist, optometrist and dental hygienist  
23 practicing in the state shall, on or before July first, nineteen hundred  
24 ninety-four and every four years thereafter, complete course work or  
25 training appropriate to the professional's practice approved by the  
26 department regarding infection control, which shall include sepsis, and  
27 barrier precautions, including engineering and work practice controls,  
28 in accordance with regulatory standards promulgated by the department,  
29 in consultation with the department of health, which shall be consist-  
30 ent, as far as appropriate, with such standards adopted by the depart-  
31 ment of health pursuant to section two hundred thirty-nine of the public  
32 health law to prevent the transmission of HIV, HBV, HCV and infections  
33 that could lead to sepsis in the course of professional practice. Each  
34 such professional shall document to the department at the time of regis-  
35 tration commencing with the first registration after July first, nine-  
36 teen hundred ninety-four that the professional has completed course work  
37 or training in accordance with this section, provided, however that a  
38 professional subject to the provisions of paragraph (f) of subdivision  
39 one of section twenty-eight hundred five-k of the public health law  
40 shall not be required to so document. The department shall provide an  
41 exemption from this requirement to anyone who requests such an exemption  
42 and who (i) clearly demonstrates to the department's satisfaction that  
43 there would be no need for him or her to complete such course work or  
44 training because of the nature of his or her practice or (ii) that he or  
45 she has completed course work or training deemed by the department to be  
46 equivalent to the course work or training approved by the department  
47 pursuant to this section. The department shall consult with organiza-  
48 tions representative of professions, institutions and those with exper-  
49 tise in infection control and HIV, HBV, HCV and infections that could  
50 lead to sepsis with respect to the regulatory standards promulgated  
51 pursuant to this section.

52 § 6. Subdivision (a) of section 1203 of the limited liability company  
53 law, as amended by chapter 475 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read  
54 as follows:

55 (a) Notwithstanding the education law or any other provision of law,  
56 one or more professionals each of whom is authorized by law to render a

1 professional service within the state, or one or more professionals, at  
2 least one of whom is authorized by law to render a professional service  
3 within the state, may form, or cause to be formed, a professional  
4 service limited liability company for pecuniary profit under this arti-  
5 cle for the purpose of rendering the professional service or services as  
6 such professionals are authorized to practice. With respect to a profes-  
7 sional service limited liability company formed to provide medical  
8 services as such services are defined in article 131 of the education  
9 law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed  
10 pursuant to article 131 of the education law to practice medicine in  
11 this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability  
12 company formed to provide dental services as such services are defined  
13 in article 133 of the education law, each member of such limited liabil-  
14 ity company must be licensed pursuant to article 133 of the education  
15 law to practice dentistry in this state. With respect to a professional  
16 service limited liability company formed to provide veterinary services  
17 as such services are defined in article 135 of the education law, each  
18 member of such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to  
19 article 135 of the education law to practice veterinary medicine in this  
20 state. With respect to a professional service limited liability company  
21 formed to provide professional engineering, land surveying, architec-  
22 tural, landscape architectural and/or geological services as such  
23 services are defined in article 145, article 147 and article 148 of the  
24 education law, each member of such limited liability company must be  
25 licensed pursuant to article 145, article 147 and/or article 148 of the  
26 education law to practice one or more of such professions in this state.  
27 With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed  
28 to provide licensed clinical social work services as such services are  
29 defined in article 154 of the education law, each member of such limited  
30 liability company shall be licensed pursuant to article 154 of the  
31 education law to practice licensed clinical social work in this state.  
32 With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed  
33 to provide creative arts therapy services as such services are defined  
34 in article 163 of the education law, each member of such limited liabil-  
35 ity company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education  
36 law to practice creative arts therapy in this state. With respect to a  
37 professional service limited liability company formed to provide  
38 marriage and family therapy services as such services are defined in  
39 article 163 of the education law, each member of such limited liability  
40 company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to  
41 practice marriage and family therapy in this state. With respect to a  
42 professional service limited liability company formed to provide mental  
43 health counseling services as such services are defined in article 163  
44 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company must  
45 be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice  
46 mental health counseling in this state. With respect to a professional  
47 service limited liability company formed to provide psychoanalysis  
48 services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education  
49 law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed  
50 pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice psychoanalysis  
51 in this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability  
52 company formed to provide applied behavior analysis services as such  
53 services are defined in article 167 of the education law, each member of  
54 such limited liability company must be licensed or certified pursuant to  
55 article 167 of the education law to practice applied behavior analysis  
56 in this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability



company formed to provide vision impairment specialist services as such services are defined in article 169 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 169 of the education law to practice as a vision impairment specialist in this state. In addition to engaging in such profession or professions, a professional service limited liability company may engage in any other business or activities as to which a limited liability company may be formed under section two hundred one of this chapter. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a professional service limited liability company (i) authorized to practice law may only engage in another profession or business or activities or (ii) which is engaged in a profession or other business or activities other than law may only engage in the practice of law, to the extent not prohibited by any other law of this state or any rule adopted by the appropriate appellate division of the supreme court or the court of appeals.

§ 7. Subdivision (b) of section 1207 of the limited liability company law, as amended by chapter 475 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

(b) With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide medical services as such services are defined in article 131 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 131 of the education law to practice medicine in this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide dental services as such services are defined in article 133 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 133 of the education law to practice dentistry in this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide veterinary services as such services are defined in article 135 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 135 of the education law to practice veterinary medicine in this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide professional engineering, land surveying, architectural, landscape architectural and/or geological services as such services are defined in article 145, article 147 and article 148 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 145, article 147 and/or article 148 of the education law to practice one or more of such professions in this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide licensed clinical social work services as such services are defined in article 154 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company shall be licensed pursuant to article 154 of the education law to practice licensed clinical social work in this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide creative arts therapy services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice creative arts therapy in this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide marriage and family therapy services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice marriage and family therapy in this state. With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed to provide mental health counseling services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education law, each member of

1 such limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 163  
2 of the education law to practice mental health counseling in this state.  
3 With respect to a professional service limited liability company formed  
4 to provide psychoanalysis services as such services are defined in arti-  
5 cle 163 of the education law, each member of such limited liability  
6 company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to  
7 practice psychoanalysis in this state. With respect to a professional  
8 service limited liability company formed to provide applied behavior  
9 analysis services as such services are defined in article 167 of the  
10 education law, each member of such limited liability company must be  
11 licensed or certified pursuant to article 167 of the education law to  
12 practice applied behavior analysis in this state. With respect to a  
13 professional service limited liability company formed to provide vision  
14 impairment specialist services as such services are defined in article  
15 169 of the education law, each member of such limited liability company  
16 must be licensed pursuant to article 169 of the education law to prac-  
17 tice as a vision impairment specialist in this state.

18 § 8. Subdivision (a) of section 1301 of the limited liability company  
19 law, as amended by chapter 475 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read  
20 as follows:

21 (a) "Foreign professional service limited liability company" means a  
22 professional service limited liability company, whether or not denomi-  
23 nated as such, organized under the laws of a jurisdiction other than  
24 this state, (i) each of whose members and managers, if any, is a profes-  
25 sional authorized by law to render a professional service within this  
26 state and who is or has been engaged in the practice of such profession  
27 in such professional service limited liability company or a predecessor  
28 entity, or will engage in the practice of such profession in the profes-  
29 sional service limited liability company within thirty days of the date  
30 such professional becomes a member, or each of whose members and manag-  
31 ers, if any, is a professional at least one of such members is author-  
32 ized by law to render a professional service within this state and who  
33 is or has been engaged in the practice of such profession in such  
34 professional service limited liability company or a predecessor entity,  
35 or will engage in the practice of such profession in the professional  
36 service limited liability company within thirty days of the date such  
37 professional becomes a member, or (ii) authorized by, or holding a  
38 license, certificate, registration or permit issued by the licensing  
39 authority pursuant to, the education law to render a professional  
40 service within this state; except that all members and managers, if any,  
41 of a foreign professional service limited liability company that  
42 provides health services in this state shall be licensed in this state.  
43 With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability company  
44 which provides veterinary services as such services are defined in arti-  
45 cle 135 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional  
46 service limited liability company shall be licensed pursuant to article  
47 135 of the education law to practice veterinary medicine. With respect  
48 to a foreign professional service limited liability company which  
49 provides medical services as such services are defined in article 131 of  
50 the education law, each member of such foreign professional service  
51 limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 131 of  
52 the education law to practice medicine in this state. With respect to a  
53 foreign professional service limited liability company which provides  
54 dental services as such services are defined in article 133 of the  
55 education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited  
56 liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 133 of the educa-

tion law to practice dentistry in this state. With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability company which provides professional engineering, land surveying, geologic, architectural and/or landscape architectural services as such services are defined in article 145, article 147 and article 148 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 145, article 147 and/or article 148 of the education law to practice one or more of such professions in this state. With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability company which provides licensed clinical social work services as such services are defined in article 154 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company shall be licensed pursuant to article 154 of the education law to practice clinical social work in this state. With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability company which provides creative arts therapy services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice creative arts therapy in this state. With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability company which provides marriage and family therapy services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice marriage and family therapy in this state. With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability company which provides mental health counseling services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice mental health counseling in this state. With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability company which provides psychoanalysis services as such services are defined in article 163 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice psychoanalysis in this state. With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability company which provides applied behavior analysis services as such services are defined in article 167 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company must be licensed or certified pursuant to article 167 of the education law to practice applied behavior analysis in this state. With respect to a foreign professional service limited liability company which provides vision impairment specialist services as such services are defined in article 169 of the education law, each member of such foreign professional service limited liability company must be licensed pursuant to article 169 of the education law to practice as a vision impairment specialist in this state.

§ 9. Subdivision (q) of section 121-1500 of the partnership law, as amended by chapter 475 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

(q) Each partner of a registered limited liability partnership formed to provide medical services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 131 of the education law to practice medicine in this state and each partner of a registered limited liability partnership formed to provide dental services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 133 of the education law to practice dentistry in this state. Each partner of a registered limited liability partnership formed to provide

1 veterinary services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article  
2 135 of the education law to practice veterinary medicine in this state.  
3 Each partner of a registered limited liability partnership formed to  
4 provide professional engineering, land surveying, geological services,  
5 architectural and/or landscape architectural services in this state must  
6 be licensed pursuant to article 145, article 147 and/or article 148 of  
7 the education law to practice one or more of such professions in this  
8 state. Each partner of a registered limited liability partnership formed  
9 to provide licensed clinical social work services in this state must be  
10 licensed pursuant to article 154 of the education law to practice clin-  
11 ical social work in this state. Each partner of a registered limited  
12 liability partnership formed to provide creative arts therapy services  
13 in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education  
14 law to practice creative arts therapy in this state. Each partner of a  
15 registered limited liability partnership formed to provide marriage and  
16 family therapy services in this state must be licensed pursuant to arti-  
17 cle 163 of the education law to practice marriage and family therapy in  
18 this state. Each partner of a registered limited liability partnership  
19 formed to provide mental health counseling services in this state must  
20 be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice  
21 mental health counseling in this state. Each partner of a registered  
22 limited liability partnership formed to provide psychoanalysis services  
23 in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education  
24 law to practice psychoanalysis in this state. Each partner of a regis-  
25 tered limited liability partnership formed to provide applied behavior  
26 analysis service in this state must be licensed or certified pursuant to  
27 article 167 of the education law to practice applied behavior analysis  
28 in this state. Each partner of a registered limited liability partner-  
29 ship formed to provide vision impairment specialist services in this  
30 state must be licensed or certified pursuant to article 169 of the  
31 education law to practice as a vision impairment specialist in this  
32 state.

33 § 10. Subdivision (q) of section 121-1502 of the partnership law, as  
34 amended by chapter 475 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as  
35 follows:

36 (q) Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which  
37 provides medical services in this state must be licensed pursuant to  
38 article 131 of the education law to practice medicine in the state and  
39 each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides  
40 dental services in the state must be licensed pursuant to article 133 of  
41 the education law to practice dentistry in this state. Each partner of a  
42 foreign limited liability partnership which provides veterinary service  
43 in the state shall be licensed pursuant to article 135 of the education  
44 law to practice veterinary medicine in this state. Each partner of a  
45 foreign limited liability partnership which provides professional engi-  
46 neering, land surveying, geological services, architectural and/or land-  
47 scape architectural services in this state must be licensed pursuant to  
48 article 145, article 147 and/or article 148 of the education law to  
49 practice one or more of such professions. Each partner of a foreign  
50 limited liability partnership which provides licensed clinical social  
51 work services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 154 of  
52 the education law to practice licensed clinical social work in this  
53 state. Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which  
54 provides creative arts therapy services in this state must be licensed  
55 pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice creative arts  
56 therapy in this state. Each partner of a foreign limited liability part-

nership which provides marriage and family therapy services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice marriage and family therapy in this state. Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides mental health counseling services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice mental health counseling in this state. Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides psychoanalysis services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 163 of the education law to practice psychoanalysis in this state. Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides applied behavior analysis services in this state must be licensed or certified pursuant to article 167 of the education law to practice applied behavior analysis in this state. Each partner of a foreign limited liability partnership which provides vision impairment specialist services in this state must be licensed pursuant to article 169 of the education law to practice as a vision impairment specialist in this state.

§ 11. a. Nothing in this act shall be construed as prohibiting a person from performing the duties of a licensed vision impairment specialist, in the course of such employment, if such person is employed by programs licensed, certified, operated, or funded and regulated by the office of children and family services including the commission for the blind and visually impaired, the state education department or the department of health; provided, however, that this section shall not authorize the use of any title authorized pursuant to article 169 of the education law.

b. On or before September 1, 2024, each office identified in subdivision a of this section that licenses, certifies, operates or funds and regulates programs that employ individuals to provide services that would otherwise be restricted to individuals licensed or authorized under article 169 of the education law, shall submit to the commissioner of education, in such form and detail as requested by such commissioner, data in relation to: the number of individuals employed in exempt programs licensed, certified, operated, or funded and regulated by each office identified in subdivision a of this section on September 1, 2023 who are providing services that would otherwise be restricted to those licensed or authorized under article 169 of the education law; and the occupational title of individuals who on July 1, 2024 are not licensed or otherwise authorized under title 8 of the education law, and who are engaged in the practice of vision impairment specialist for the purpose of providing vision impairment specialist services to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

c. The commissioner of education, after receipt of this data and in consultation with the offices identified in subdivision a of this section, in consultation with not-for-profit providers, professional associations, consumers and other key stakeholders, shall prepare a report that recommends changes in any laws, rules or regulations necessary to ensure appropriate licensure or other authorization of individuals providing services that are within the restricted practice of professions licensed or otherwise authorized under article 169 of the education law. Such report shall include an estimate of the fiscal impact of any such recommended changes and, to the extent practicable, how such recommendations will result in improved outcomes. The commissioner of education shall submit the report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, and the chairs of the senate and assembly higher education committees by January 1,



1 2025. The commissioners of the agencies identified in subdivision a of  
2 this section shall be provided an opportunity to include statements or  
3 alternative recommendations in such report.

4 § 12. This act shall take effect eighteen months after it shall have  
5 become a law; provided, further, that the provisions of subdivision a of  
6 section eleven of this act shall expire July 1, 2025 when upon such date  
7 the provisions of such subdivision shall be deemed repealed. The  
8 commissioner of education and the board of regents are authorized to  
9 promulgate such rules and regulations and take any other measures as may  
10 be necessary for the timely implementation of this act on or before its  
11 effective date, including but not limited to the appointment of the  
12 state board for vision rehabilitation services, the acceptance and proc-  
13 essing of applications for licensure, and the issuance of licenses.