STATE OF NEW YORK

8493

IN SENATE

February 6, 2024

Introduced by Sen. HOYLMAN-SIGAL -- 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 prohibiting restrictions on the length of shelter stay

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

Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 44-a to read as follows:

§ 44-a. Shelter stay limitation prohibition. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Emergency congregate housing" shall mean any location operated by a state agency, city agency, or local municipality or a provider under contract or similar agreement with a state agency, city agency, or local municipality where individuals and families reside for more than ninety-six continuous hours and where such individuals and families sleep in a congregate setting with shared facilities, including but not limited to sleeping quarters and bathrooms, but shall not include any location operated by the department, or a provider under contract or similar agreement with the department.

(b) "Homeless youth" shall have the same meaning as set forth in subdivision two of section five hundred thirty-two-a of the executive law, and shall include homeless young adults.

(c) "Homeless young adult" shall have the same meaning as set forth in subdivision nine of section five hundred thirty-two-a of the executive law.

(d) "Shelter" shall have the same meaning as "homeless project", as defined by subdivision one of section forty-two of this title.

2. (a) No state agency shall impose limits on the length of time an individual or family may reside in shelter or emergency congregate housing. Absent imminent danger or a request from an individual or family to be transferred, the state agency, city agency, or local municipality or a provider under contract or similar agreement with a state agency, city agency, or local municipality shall not move individuals or fami-

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

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lies from their placement, so long as that placement complies with all city, state, federal and municipal laws.

(b) To reside in shelter operated by the department, or a provider under contract or similar agreement with the department, an individual or family must maintain eligibility for temporary housing assistance pursuant to section 352.25 of the New York code, rules and regulations.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.