STATE OF NEW YORK

10569--A

IN ASSEMBLY

March 13, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. PAULIN, SCHIAVONI, SIMON, KASSAY, JENSEN, DE LOS SANTOS, McDONALD, GIGLIO, FITZPATRICK, GANDOLFO, STERN, GRIFFIN, REYES, DURSO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing a demonstration program for pediatric palliative care centers; authorizing a rate methodology for pediatric palliative care centers; 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:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known as the "pediatric palliative care center act".

§ 2. The public health law is amended by adding new section 2801-i to read as follows:

§ 2801-i. Pediatric palliative care center demonstration program. 1. For the purposes of this section (a) "Pediatric palliative care patient" means an individual who:

(i) is under twenty-one years of age;

(ii) has been diagnosed with a chronic, complex, life-threatening illness that is expected to shorten the individual's life expectancy; and

(iii) is not expected to survive past twenty-one years of age.

(b) "Pediatric palliative care" means patient and family centered interdisciplinary care provided to those under twenty-one years of age with serious, complex, chronic, life-limiting, or life-threatening medical conditions for the purpose of preventing and relieving suffering and improving quality of life. Care may be provided concurrently with curative, restorative, disease directed, or life prolonging treatment and if appropriate regardless of prognosis or life expectancy.

2. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the department shall establish a pediatric palliative care center demonstration program, of up to five not-for-profit entities, to evaluate the delivery of pediatric palliative care centers services and their efficacy.

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

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(b) Such demonstration centers shall be limited in size by the department after considering the need of the demonstration catchment area. The department shall also consider the placement of the centers based on an estimated number of pediatric palliative care patients in the particular area and the availability of other services in the area.

(c) Before approving a not-for-profit entity for the demonstration program under this section, the commissioner shall be satisfied with the character and competence of such entity. The commissioner shall take into consideration any experience with the department and other state agencies.

3. (a) A pediatric palliative care center approved to operate under this section shall be eligible for federal funding to the extent possible.

(b) Hospice services provided within a pediatric palliative care center shall be delivered by, or by contract with, a hospice program licensed pursuant to article forty of this chapter.

4. The department shall adopt rules and regulations which shall include, but not be limited to, minimum operating standards applicable to the services and need of pediatric palliative care patients;

5. Eligibility criteria for pediatric palliative care center services shall be based upon medical necessity, functional impairment, caregiver need and other criteria established by the commissioner.

§ 3. Section 2807 of the public health law is amended by adding a new subdivision 22 to read as follows:

22. Notwithstanding any provision of law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the commissioner shall establish or approve a rate methodology for pediatric palliative care centers established pursuant to section two thousand eight hundred one-i of this article, for the purposes of providing palliative care to children. Such rate methodology shall be based on the reasonable costs of operating a demonstration center in an efficient manner. The commissioner may also apply for federal financial participation if appropriate.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundredth day after it shall have become a law and shall expire and be deemed repealed 8 years after such date. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.