

STATE OF NEW YORK

5434

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 14, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to requiring the office of children and family services to provide luggage to youth in foster care

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

1 Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section
2 398-f to read as follows:

3 § 398-f. Duty to provide luggage to foster children. 1. Definitions.
4 For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the
5 following meanings:

6 (a) "Demographic information" means race or ethnicity, gender, commu-
7 nity district, primary language, and any other category the office of
8 children and family services deems relevant.

9 (b) "Foster care agency" means the voluntary agency contracted by
10 social services districts to provide foster care.

11 (c) "Luggage" means a durable suitcase, duffel bag, backpack, or simi-
12 lar reusable container that is new or is in new-like condition, and is
13 designed to hold an individual's personal belongings and is not a
14 disposable bag, trash bag, or cardboard box.

15 2. Foster youth luggage. The office of children and family services
16 shall procure, distribute, and supply luggage to foster care youth who
17 do not have appropriate luggage of their own and who are: (a) entering
18 foster care; (b) moving from one foster care placement to another; (c)
19 exiting foster care; (d) moving to college; or (e) in any other situ-
20 ation where luggage is needed. If any foster care youth reports that
21 their luggage has been lost, stolen, or damaged, the office of children
22 and family services shall provide replacement luggage at their
23 discretion. Any luggage provided by the office of children and family
24 services may not be reclaimed or retained by the office of children and

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

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1 family services, social services districts, foster care agencies, or the
2 child's foster parent.

3 3. Partnership with social services districts. The office of children
4 and family services shall distribute new luggage to social services
5 districts based on the number of foster children in each locality. Each
6 social services district shall distribute new luggage to children within
7 the office of children and family services' care and custody or care and
8 guardianship, as well as to any voluntary agencies within their juris-
9 dictions with whom they contract for the provision of foster care
10 services.

11 4. Foster youth luggage reporting. No later than December first of
12 each year, the office of children and family services shall submit a
13 report to the governor and the legislature detailing the provision of
14 luggage to foster care youth. Such report shall include, but need not be
15 limited to, the following information:

16 (a) The total number of foster care youth given luggage, in total and
17 disaggregated by demographic information;

18 (b) To the extent there are foster care youth utilizing disposable
19 bags, trash bags, or cardboard boxes in place of luggage to transport
20 their belongings, the number of such foster care youth utilizing such
21 disposable bags, trash bags, or cardboard boxes, in total and disaggre-
22 gated by demographic information, and the reason such youth are utiliz-
23 ing such disposable bag, trash bag, or cardboard box; and

24 (c) The supply, cost, and inventory management procedures for the
25 office of children and family services' luggage supply.

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