STATE OF NEW YORK

8020

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 22, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SANTABARBARA -- read once and referred to the Committee on People with Disabilities

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to creating a pilot program to improve equity and efficiency in housing for people with developmental disabilities

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

Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 13.44 to read as follows:

§ 13.44 Shared housing pilot program.

1. The office for people with developmental disabilities shall establish a pilot program in partnership with a nonprofit organization that has experience providing employment training and support for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Such pilot program shall explore alternative housing models for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Specifically, such pilot shall work with the partner nonprofit organization to provide shared residential housing for up to four individuals per unit, supported by dedicated staff.

2. Under the pilot program, the funding allotted per individual shall not be decreased by a substantial amount due to the shared residential unit. The pilot program shall serve to balance equitable funding with incentivizing shared spaces in order to promote community for residents and to increase efficiency by reducing the total number of units funded.

3. For the purposes of the pilot program established by this section, the office may waive or alter certain housing requirements, as necessary, to achieve the goals of the pilot program, including but not limited to funding allotments based on residents per unit pursuant to subdivision two of this section.

4. While the partner nonprofit organization may conduct day-to-day operations of residential units, the office shall oversee and monitor residential units established through the pilot program in order to

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

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ensure the welfare of its residents and to evaluate the effectiveness of this model, including the impact on resident well-being, cost-effectiveness, and administrative efficiency.

5. The office shall report its findings to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly three years after the establishment of the pilot program. The office may recommend regulatory changes based on the outcomes of the pilot program.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.