

STATE OF NEW YORK

821

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. FORREST, SHIMSKY, BORES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to persons authorized to visit facilities operated by the department of social services or a social services district and homeless projects

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

1 Section 1. Section 42 of the social services law is amended by adding
2 a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

3 6. "Emergency congregate housing" shall mean any location operated by
4 a state agency, city agency, or local municipality or a provider under
5 contract or similar agreement with a state agency, city agency, or local
6 municipality where individuals and families reside for more than nine-
7 ty-six continuous hours and where such individuals and families sleep in
8 a congregate setting with shared facilities, including but not limited
9 to sleeping quarters and bathrooms; provided, however, that emergency
10 congregate housing shall not include any location operated by the
11 department or a provider under contract or similar agreement with the
12 department.

13 § 2. Subdivision 1 of section 42 of the social services law, as
14 amended by chapter 458 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 1. "Homeless project" shall mean emergency congregate housing or a
17 specific facility, including lands, buildings and improvements acquired,
18 constructed, renovated or rehabilitated and operated by a not-for-profit
19 corporation, charitable organization, wholly owned subsidiary of a not-
20 for-profit corporation or of a charitable organization, public corpo-
21 ration or a municipality to increase the availability of housing for
22 homeless persons, which may include other non-housing services such as
23 but not limited to dining, recreational, sanitary, social, medical and

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

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1 mental health services as may be deemed by the commissioner to be essen-
2 tial to such a project.

3 § 3. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 40-a
4 to read as follows:

5 § 40-a. Persons authorized to visit facilities. Notwithstanding any
6 rule, regulation, or law to the contrary, the following persons shall be
7 authorized to visit at pleasure all facilities operated by the depart-
8 ment or a social services district, including adult care facilities as
9 defined in subdivision twenty-one of section two of this chapter and
10 homeless projects as defined in subdivision one of section forty-two of
11 this chapter: The governor and lieutenant-governor, comptroller and
12 attorney-general, members of the legislature and their accompanying
13 staff as requested by the member of the legislature if the member
14 requests to be so accompanied, members of the elected legislative body
15 of the county in which the facility is located and their accompanying
16 staff as requested by the member of such legislative body if the member
17 requests to be so accompanied, in city council and their accompanying
18 staff as requested by the city council member if the council member
19 requests to be so accompanied, judges of the court of appeals, justices
20 of the supreme court and county judges, district attorneys and every
21 clergyman or minister, as such terms are defined in section two of the
22 religious corporations law, having charge of a congregation in the coun-
23 ty in which such facility is located.

24 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.