STATE OF NEW YORK

9481

IN ASSEMBLY

January 7, 2026

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 information required to be provided in calls made to the statewide central register of child abuse and maltreatment; and to amend a chapter of the laws of 2025 amending the social services law relating to the administration of the statewide central register of child abuse and maltreatment, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 550-A and A. 66-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 422 of the social services law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of 2025 amending the social services law relating to the administration of the statewide central register of child abuse and maltreatment, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 550-A and A. 66-A, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The central register shall be capable of receiving telephone calls alleging child abuse or maltreatment and of immediately identifying prior reports of child abuse or maltreatment and capable of monitoring the provision of child protective service twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. To effectuate this purpose, but subject to the provisions of the appropriate local plan for the provision of child protective services, there shall be a single statewide telephone number that all persons, whether mandated by the law or not, may use to make telephone calls alleging child abuse or maltreatment and that all persons so authorized by this title may use for determining the existence of prior reports in order to evaluate the condition or circumstances of a child. In addition to the single statewide telephone number, there shall be a special unlisted express telephone number and a telephone facsimile number for use only by persons mandated by law to make telephone calls, or to transmit telephone facsimile information on a form provided by the commissioner of children and family services, alleging child abuse or maltreatment, and for use by all persons so authorized by this title for

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

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determining the existence of prior reports in order to evaluate the condition or circumstances of a child. When any allegations contained in such telephone calls could reasonably constitute a report of child abuse or maltreatment, after utilizing protocols that would reduce implicit bias from the decision-making process, such allegations, the caller's name **pursuant to paragraph (d) of this subdivision**, the caller's contact information **pursuant to paragraph (d) of this subdivision** and any previous reports to the central registry involving the subject of such report or children named in such report, including any previous report containing allegations of child abuse and maltreatment alleged to have occurred in other counties and districts in New York state shall be immediately transmitted orally or electronically by the office of children and family services to the appropriate local child protective service for investigation. The inability of the person calling the register to identify the alleged perpetrator shall, in no circumstance, constitute the sole cause for the register to reject such allegation or fail to transmit such allegation for investigation. If the records indicate a previous report concerning a subject of the report, the child alleged to be abused or maltreated, a sibling, other children in the household, other persons named in the report or other pertinent information, the appropriate local child protective service shall be immediately notified of the fact. If the report involves either (i) an allegation of an abused child described in paragraph (i), (ii) or (iii) of subdivision (e) of section one thousand twelve of the family court act or sexual abuse of a child or the death of a child or (ii) suspected maltreatment which alleges any physical harm when the report is made by a person required to report pursuant to section four hundred thirteen of this title within six months of any other two reports that were indicated, or may still be pending, involving the same child, sibling, or other children in the household or the subject of the report, the office of children and family services shall identify the report as such and note any prior reports when transmitting the report to the local child protective services for investigation.

§ 2. Paragraphs (d) and (e) of subdivision 2 of section 422 of the social services law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2025 amending the social services law relating to the administration of the statewide central register of child abuse and maltreatment, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 550-A and A. 66-A, are amended to read as follows:

(d) A caller making a report of suspected child abuse or maltreatment to the central [~~registry~~] **register** shall be asked for their name and contact information. [~~No report shall be transmitted~~] **The central register may not transmit a report** to a local child protective service for investigation [~~unless~~] **if** the caller's name and contact information [~~is~~] **are not** provided**, unless the central register reasonably believes the caller is a child under the age of eighteen**. [~~Except for disclosures authorized by subparagraphs (a) through (c) and (e) through (bb) of paragraph (A) of subdivision four of this section, and disclosure to the local child protective service as required pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision, neither the commissioner nor the central register shall release the name and contact information of a caller who made a report of suspected child abuse or maltreatment unless ordered by an administrative law judge or a court of competent jurisdiction; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to individuals who are mandated to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment pursuant to section four hundred thirteen of this title. Prior to the entry of any~~

~~such order, the petitioner or social services official may move for a protective order to withhold the identity of such individual if such disclosure is likely to endanger the life or health of the person reporting such suspected child abuse or maltreatment.~~]

(e) If a caller declines to provide their name and contact information, [~~they will be connected~~] **the central register must connect the caller** with a supervisor [~~at the central register~~], who [~~will~~] **shall** inform the caller of the statutory provisions that protect callers' confidentiality. If the caller**, including a caller reasonably believed to be a child under the age of eighteen,** declines to provide their name and contact information to the supervisor, the supervisor shall inform the caller that (i) [~~concerns of suspected abuse or maltreatment may be addressed through support services if the caller contacts the department's HEARS Family Line or community-based service providers and~~] **preventive and supportive services may be available to assist in addressing concerns relative to the care and well-being of a child and referrals for such services may be provided upon request; and** (ii) knowingly reporting false[~~, retaliatory~~] or baseless allegations is a violation of subdivision four of section 240.50 of the penal law.

§ 3. Section 4 of a chapter of the laws of 2025 amending the social services law relating to the administration of the statewide central register of child abuse and maltreatment, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 550-A and A. 66-A, is amended to read as follows:

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that [~~section~~] **sections** one **and two** of this act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided however, that sections one and two of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2025 amending the social services law relating to the administration of the statewide central register of child abuse and maltreatment, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 550-A and A. 66-A, takes effect.