

# STATE OF NEW YORK

10201

## IN SENATE

May 5, 2026

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to the powers of the head of the office of mental health and the head of the office for people with developmental disabilities to promulgate rules regarding communications needs of non-English speaking individuals

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (h) of section 7.09 of the mental hygiene law,  
2 as added by chapter 301 of the laws of 1994 and relettered by section 2  
3 of part I of chapter 58 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 (h) The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to address  
6 the language assistance services and communications needs of non-English  
7 speaking individuals seeking or receiving services in facilities oper-  
8 ated or licensed by the office in order to facilitate their access to  
9 services. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited  
10 to, documents, forms and materials being available in English and the  
11 twelve most common non-English languages spoken by individuals in New  
12 York state based on United States census data, and other reasonable  
13 means to accommodate the language capabilities and preferences of non-  
14 English speaking individuals in such facilities where a significant  
15 number of non-English speaking individuals seek or receive services.

16 § 2. Subdivision (e) of section 13.09 of the mental hygiene law, as  
17 added by chapter 301 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as  
18 follows:

19 (e) The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to address  
20 the language assistance services and communications needs of non-English  
21 speaking individuals seeking or receiving services in facilities oper-  
22 ated or licensed by the office in order to facilitate their access to  
23 services. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited  
24 to, documents, forms, and materials being available in English and the  
25 twelve most common non-English languages spoken by individuals in New  
26 York state based on United States census data, and other reasonable

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

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1 means to accommodate the language capabilities and preferences of non-  
2 English speaking individuals in such facilities where a significant  
3 number of non-English speaking individuals seek or receive services.  
4 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.