# STATE OF NEW YORK

10332

# IN SENATE

May 14, 2026

Introduced by Sen. CHAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to establish a temporary state commission to study the recognition of coercive psychological, emotional, and financial abuse resulting in demonstrable physical or neurological harm

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

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. 1. Domestic violence and abuse encompass a range of behaviors including physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, and financial abuse.

2. Emerging medical and psychological research indicates that prolonged exposure to coercive control, emotional abuse, and chronic psychological trauma may result in measurable harm to neurological functioning, including but not limited to stress-related brain changes, cognitive impairment, and trauma-related neurological injury.

3. Current New York state law primarily addresses psychological abuse through related offenses such as harassment, stalking, menacing, and assault; however, there is no specific statutory framework addressing long-term psychological coercion that results in demonstrable physical or neurological injury.

4. It is in the interest of the state of New York to study whether existing legal frameworks adequately address such harms and whether reforms are warranted to better recognize patterns of coercive abuse that result in medical or neurological injury.

§ 2. Establishment of the commission. 1. There is hereby established within the department of health, in consultation with the office for the prevention of domestic violence, a temporary commission to be known as the "coercive abuse and neurological harm study commission", hereinafter known as "the commission".

2. Such commission shall consist of eight members appointed as follows:

(a) One member appointed by the governor;

(b) One member appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

(c) One member appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

(d) One representative from the office for the prevention of domestic violence;

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

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(e) One licensed neurologist specializing in trauma-related brain injury;

(f) One licensed clinical psychologist with expertise in trauma and domestic violence;

(g) One representative from law enforcement with experience in domestic violence investigations; and

(h) One survivor advocate with experience in domestic abuse support services.

3. Members of the commission shall designate a chair from the membership thereof for a term of two years or until their term expires, whichever period is shorter. The chair or a member of the commission may call a meeting.

4. Any vacancy occurring on the commission shall be filled within thirty days of its occurrence in the same manner as the member whose vacancy is being filled was appointed. A person appointed to fill a vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term of office shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member they succeed.

5. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties hereunder.

6. The commission may request and shall receive from any court, department, division, board, or bureau, commission, or agency of the state such assistance and data as will enable the commission to properly carry out its powers and duties under this act.

§ 3. Duties of the commission. The commission shall perform the following tasks, including but not limited to:

1. Review current scientific research regarding the neurological and psychological effects of prolonged emotional, psychological, and coercive abuse;

2. Examine existing New York state criminal, family, and civil statutes related to domestic violence and abuse;

3. Assess the feasibility of recognizing coercive psychological abuse resulting in demonstrable neurological or physical harm as an aggravating factor in existing offenses;

4. Evaluate evidentiary standards necessary to establish causation between abusive conduct and neurological injury, including but not limited to traumatic brain injury;

5. Consider the potential legal, ethical, and constitutional implications of expanding statutory definitions of abuse; and

6. Recommend whether new statutory categories, sentencing enhancements, or civil remedies are appropriate.

§ 4. Report. 1. The commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly within 12 months of its first meeting.

2. Such report shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) A summary of scientific findings;

(b) Legal analysis of current statutory gaps;

(c) Recommendations for legislative action, if any; and

(d) Proposed model statutory language, if applicable.

§ 5. No expansion of liability. Nothing in this act shall be construed to create any new cause of action, criminal offense, or private right of action prior to the submission of the commission's final report and any subsequent legislative action.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.