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1858

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 14, 2025

Introduced by Sens. RIVERA, BAILEY, BROUK, CLEARE, COMRIE, GIANARIS, HOYLMAN-SIGAL, JACKSON, KRUEGER, MAY, PERSAUD, RAMOS, SANDERS, SEPULVEDA, SERRANO, SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the social services law and the mental hygiene law, in relation to violations of safety conditions in adult care facilities

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 of section 460-d of the
2 social services law, as amended by chapter 733 of the laws of 1994, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (b) No operating certificate shall be revoked, suspended or limited
5 without a hearing held in accordance with procedures established by
6 department regulations, which procedures shall require that notice of
7 the time and place of the hearing, and notice of the charges, shall be
8 served in person or by certified mail addressed to the facility at least
9 thirty days prior to the date of the hearing. A written answer to the
10 charges may be filed with the department not less than ten business days
11 prior to the date of the hearing. An operating certificate may, never-
12 theless, be suspended or limited without a hearing for a period not in
13 excess of sixty days, upon written notice to the facility following a
14 finding by the department that the public health, or an individual's
15 health, safety or welfare, are in imminent danger; provided, however,
16 that if the department demonstrates reasonable efforts to commence a
17 hearing within such sixty-day period and to complete such hearing within
18 a reasonable period of time, the hearing officer may authorize the
19 department to extend the period of suspension or limitation for an
20 appropriate period of time, but in no event beyond an additional thirty
21 days.

22 § 2. Subdivision 7 of section 460-d of the social services law, as
23 added by chapter 669 of the laws of 1977, paragraph (a) as amended by

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

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chapter 719 of the laws of 1989, paragraph (b) as amended by chapter 524 of the laws of 1984, subparagraph 2 of paragraph (b) as amended by chapter 733 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

7. (a) The department shall adopt regulations establishing civil penalties of up to ~~[one]~~ two thousand dollars per violation, per day and for repeat violations, under subparagraph two of paragraph (c) of this subdivision for which a prior penalty was assessed, an amount up to five thousand dollars per violation, per day to be assessed against all adult care facilities ~~[except facilities operated by a social services district]~~ for violations of (i) regulations of the department pertaining to the care of residents in such facilities, (ii) paragraph (a) of subdivision three of section four hundred sixty-one-a of this ~~[chapter]~~ article, or (iii) an order issued pursuant to subdivision eight of this section. The regulations shall specify the violations subject to penalty and the amount of the penalty to be assessed in connection with each such violation and shall specify that only civil penalties of up to ~~[one]~~ two thousand dollars ~~[per day]~~ per violation, per day, shall be assessed pursuant to this paragraph against an adult care facility found responsible for an act of retaliation or reprisal against any resident, employee, or other person for having filed a complaint with or having provided information to any long term care ~~[patient]~~ ombudsman functioning in accordance with section ~~[five hundred forty four or five hundred forty five]~~ two hundred eighteen of the ~~[executive]~~ elder law.

(b) ~~[(1)]~~ In addition to any other civil or criminal penalty provided by law, the department shall have the power to assess civil penalties in accordance with its regulations adopted pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision, after a hearing conducted in accordance with the procedures established by regulations of the department. Such procedures shall require that notice of the time and place of the hearing, together with a statement of charges of violations, shall be served in person or by certified mail addressed to the facility at least thirty days prior to the date of the hearing. The statement of charges of violations shall set forth the existence of the violations, the amount of penalty for which it may become liable and the steps which must be taken to rectify the violation and, where applicable, a statement that the department contends that a penalty may be imposed under this paragraph regardless of rectification. An answer to the charges of violations, in writing, shall be filed with the department, not less than ten days prior to the date of hearing. The answer shall notify the department of the facility's position with respect to each of the charges and shall include all matters which if not disclosed in the answer would be likely to take the department by surprise. The commissioner, or a member of ~~[his]~~ such commissioner's staff who is designated and authorized by ~~[him]~~ such commissioner to hold such hearing, may in ~~[his]~~ such commissioner's discretion allow the facility to prove any matter not included in the answer.

(c) (1) Where the facility satisfactorily demonstrates that it either had rectified the violations within thirty days of receiving written notification of the results of the inspection pursuant to section four hundred sixty-one-a of this ~~[chapter]~~ article, or had submitted within thirty days an acceptable plan for rectification and was rectifying the violations in accordance with the steps and within the additional periods of time as accepted by the department in such plan, no penalty shall be imposed, except as provided in subparagraph two of this paragraph.

(2) Rectification shall not preclude the assessment of a penalty if the department establishes at a hearing that a particular violation,

1 although corrected[, ~~endangered or resulted in harm to any resident as~~
2 ~~the result of~~]:

3 (i) endangered any resident. Endangerment is defined as:

4 (A) the total or substantial failure of the facility's fire detection
5 or prevention systems, or emergency evacuation procedures prescribed by
6 department safety standard regulations;

7 ~~(ii)~~ (B) the retention of any resident who has been evaluated by the
8 resident's physician as being medically or mentally unsuited for care in
9 the facility or as requiring placement in a hospital or residential
10 health care facility and for whom the operator is not making persistent
11 efforts to secure appropriate placement;

12 ~~(iii)~~ (C) the failure in systemic practices and procedures which
13 shall be defined as widespread or chronic, and material, noncompliance
14 with statutory or regulatory requirements, including but not limited to
15 the rights of residents under section four hundred sixty-one-d of this
16 article;

17 ~~(iv)~~ (D) the failure of the operator to take actions as required by
18 department regulations in the event of a resident's illness or accident;

19 ~~(v)~~ (E) the failure of the operator to provide at all times super-
20 vision of residents by numbers of staff at least equivalent to the night
21 staffing requirement set forth in department regulations; or

22 ~~(vi) unreasonable~~ (F) threats of retaliation or taking reprisals,
23 including but not limited to ~~unreasonable~~ threats of eviction or
24 hospitalization, against any resident, employee or other person who
25 makes a complaint concerning the operation of an adult care facility,
26 participates in the investigation of a complaint or is the subject of an
27 action identified in a complaint[-

28 ~~The department shall specify in its regulations those regulations to~~
29 ~~which this subparagraph two shall apply.~~

30 ~~(3) In assessing penalties pursuant to this paragraph, the department~~
31 ~~shall consider promptness of rectification, delay occasioned by the~~
32 ~~department, and the specific circumstances of the violations as mitigat-~~
33 ~~ing factors.~~

34 ~~(c)~~; or

35 (ii) resulted in harm to any resident, including but not limited to:

36 (A) physical harm;

37 (B) loss or denial of access to money or other personal property,
38 including but not limited to a violation of section one hundred thirty-
39 one-o of this chapter; or

40 (C) being subjected to (I) conduct by an operator, administrator, case
41 manager, or other employee in a supervisory position that violates the
42 rights of a resident under section four hundred sixty-one-d of this
43 article, or (II) an egregious failure by an operator, administrator,
44 case manager, or other employee in a supervisory position to ensure the
45 rights of a resident under section four hundred sixty-one-d of this
46 article.

47 (d) In assessing penalties pursuant to this paragraph, the department
48 shall consider promptness of rectification, delay occasioned by the
49 department, and the specific circumstances of the violations as mitigat-
50 ing factors.

51 (e) Upon the request of the department, the attorney general may
52 commence an action in any court of competent jurisdiction against any
53 facility subject to the provisions of this section, and against any
54 person or corporation operating such facility, for the recovery of any
55 penalty assessed by the department in accordance with the provisions of
56 this subdivision.

1 ~~[(d)]~~ (f) Any such penalty assessed by the department may be released
2 or compromised by the department, subject to and consistent with para-
3 graph (c) of this subdivision, before the matter has been referred to
4 the attorney general, and where such matter has been referred to the
5 attorney general, any such penalty may be released or compromised and
6 any action commenced to recover the same may be settled and discontinued
7 by the attorney general, after considering paragraph (c) of this subdi-
8 vision and with the consent of the department.

9 § 3. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision 9 of section 460-d of the
10 social services law, paragraph (a) as amended by chapter 558 of the laws
11 of 1999 and paragraph (b) as added by chapter 848 of the laws of 1992,
12 are amended to read as follows:

13 (a) The department shall have authority to impose a civil penalty [~~not~~
14 ~~exceeding one thousand dollars per day~~] consistent with section twelve
15 of the public health law against, and to issue an order requiring the
16 closing of, after notice and opportunity to be heard, any facility which
17 does not possess a valid operating certificate issued by the department
18 and is an adult care facility subject to the provisions of this article
19 and the regulations of the department. A hearing shall be conducted in
20 accordance with procedures established by department regulations which
21 procedures shall require that notice of the determination that the
22 facility is an adult care facility and the reasons for such determi-
23 nation and notice of the time and place of the hearing be served in
24 person on the operator, owner or prime lessor, if any, or by certified
25 mail, return receipt requested, addressed to such person and received at
26 least twenty days prior to the date of the hearing. If such operator,
27 owner or prime lessor, if any, is not known to the department, then
28 service may be made by posting a copy thereof in a conspicuous place
29 within the facility or by sending a copy thereof by certified mail,
30 return receipt requested, addressed to the facility. A written answer to
31 the notice of violation may be filed with the department not less than
32 five days prior to the date of the hearing. Demonstration by the facil-
33 ity that it possessed an operating certificate issued pursuant to this
34 article, article twenty-eight of the public health law or article
35 sixteen, [~~twenty-three,~~] thirty-one or thirty-two of the mental hygiene
36 law at the time the hearing was commenced shall constitute a complete
37 defense to any charges made pursuant to this subdivision.

38 (b) [~~The penalty authorized by this section shall begin to run thirty~~
39 ~~days after the department provides the operator, in writing, with a~~
40 ~~summary of the inspection of the facility by which the department deter-~~
41 ~~mined that he or she is operating an uncertified adult care facility.]~~

42 The submission of an application by the operator for an operating
43 certificate for the facility shall not act as a bar to the imposition of
44 a penalty against the operator of an unlicensed adult care facility.

45 § 4. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 9 of section 460-d of the social
46 services law is amended by adding a new subparagraph (iv) to read as
47 follows:

48 (iv) If the department of health determines, based on a complaint or
49 other facts known to the department, that there is reason to believe
50 that an individual or entity is operating an adult home, enriched hous-
51 ing program, or residence for adults which does not possess a valid
52 operating certificate issued by the department, and that one or more
53 conditions or activities at such facility constitute or are likely to
54 give rise to an immediate danger to the health of the residents, and
55 awaiting a court order pursuant to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph
56 would be seriously detrimental to the health of such residents, the

1 department of health may, notwithstanding an objection by the operator,
2 administrator or other person in charge, inspect the entire premises,
3 which shall include access to all dwellings on the said property which
4 house tenants/occupants as well as access to such tenants/occupants, for
5 the purpose of ascertaining whether such danger exists or is likely to
6 arise on an immediate basis. The department of health may request the
7 assistance of local law enforcement for purposes of carrying out such
8 inspection and may take any appropriate action if it determines that
9 such danger exists or is likely to arise, including issuing a written
10 notice directing the operator, administrator or other person in charge
11 of such facility to cease or correct the condition or activity at issue.
12 As promptly as possible thereafter, within a period not to exceed
13 fifteen days, the commissioner shall provide the operator an opportunity
14 to be heard and to present any proof that such condition or activity
15 does not constitute a danger to the health of the residents of such
16 facility. The attorney general, upon request of the department of
17 health, shall be authorized to apply to the supreme court in the county
18 in which the facility is located for an order for any appropriate addi-
19 tional relief.

20 § 5. Subdivision 11 of section 460-d of the social services law, as
21 amended by section 154 of subpart B of part C of chapter 62 of the laws
22 of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

23 11. On or before issuance by the department to an adult care facility
24 operator of official written notice of: the proposed revocation, suspen-
25 sion or denial of the operator's operating certificate; the limitation
26 of the operating certificate with respect to new admissions; the issu-
27 ance of a department order or commissioner's order; the seeking of equi-
28 table relief pursuant to this section; the ~~[proposed]~~ assessment of
29 civil penalties for violations of the provisions of ~~[subparagraph two~~
30 ~~of]~~ paragraph ~~[(b)]~~ (c) of subdivision seven of this section or place-
31 ment on the "do not refer list" pursuant to subdivision fifteen of this
32 section, written notice also shall be given to the appropriate office of
33 the department of mental hygiene, department of corrections and communi-
34 ty supervision and local social services districts, and provided further
35 that the department of health shall notify hospitals, residential health
36 care facilities and adult care facilities in the locality in which such
37 facility is located that such notice has been issued. Upon resolution of
38 such enforcement action the department shall within ten days notify the
39 appropriate office of the department of mental hygiene, department of
40 corrections and community supervision, local social services districts
41 ~~[and]~~, hospitals, residential health care facilities and adult care
42 facilities.

43 § 6. Subdivision 12 of section 460-d of the social services law, as
44 amended by section 42 of part B of chapter 58 of the laws of 2004, is
45 amended to read as follows:

46 12. ~~[Social]~~ Hospitals, residential health care facilities, adult care
47 facilities, social services districts and other local government enti-
48 ties established pursuant to this chapter shall be prohibited from
49 making referrals for admissions to adult care facilities that have
50 received official written notice regarding: the proposed revocation,
51 suspension or denial of the operator's operating certificate; the limi-
52 tation of the operating certificate with respect to new admissions; the
53 issuance of department order or commissioner's orders; the seeking of
54 equitable relief pursuant to this section~~;~~ ~~the proposed assessment of~~
55 ~~civil penalties for violations of the provisions of subparagraph two of~~
56 ~~paragraph (b) of subdivision seven of this section]~~; or the facility's

1 placement on the "do not refer list" pursuant to subdivision fifteen of
2 this section.

3 § 7. Section 460-d of the social services law is amended by adding a
4 new subdivision 18 to read as follows:

5 18. When the department of health issues official written notice to an
6 operator of a proposed action specified in subdivision eleven of this
7 section, and the department determines that there is a condition which
8 constitutes an imminent danger to the health, safety or welfare of any
9 resident, the department may prohibit that operator from admitting any
10 new resident to the facility until the department determines that there
11 is no longer an imminent danger to the health, safety or welfare of any
12 resident.

13 § 8. Section 461-c of the social services law is amended by adding a
14 new subdivision 10 to read as follows:

15 10. The operator of an adult home or an enriched housing program shall
16 provide to prospective residents who inquire about admission, and shall
17 post on its website, a copy of the facility's approved
18 admission/residency agreement.

19 § 9. The closing paragraph of subdivision 3 of section 461-d of the
20 social services law, as added by chapter 601 of the laws of 1981, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Waiver of any provision [~~contained within~~] of this subdivision by a
23 resident of an adult care facility or by the resident's legal represen-
24 tative or resident representative, with respect to a resident of an
25 adult home, residence for adults or enriched housing program, shall be
26 void.

27 § 10. Section 461-e of the social services law is amended by adding a
28 new subdivision 3-a to read as follows:

29 3-a. Every adult home and enriched housing program shall:

30 (a) Post in a prominent position in the facility so as to be accessi-
31 ble to all residents and to the general public:

32 (i) a summary of any report of inspection based on a complaint issued
33 by the department of health to the facility within the previous year
34 which resulted in the payment of a fine or penalty by the facility; and

35 (ii) notice of residents' right to review reports under paragraph (b)
36 of this subdivision.

37 (b) Provide to any resident and each applicant for admission an oppor-
38 tunity to review any report of inspection based on a complaint issued by
39 the department of health to the facility within the previous year.

40 (c) Provide to the resident council a summary of any report of
41 inspection based on a complaint issued by the department of health with-
42 in fourteen days of receipt by the facility.

43 § 11. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subdivision 2 of section 461-a of the
44 social services law, paragraph (b) as amended by chapter 601 of the laws
45 of 1981 and paragraph (c) as amended by chapter 769 of the laws of 2021,
46 are amended to read as follows:

47 (b) [~~The department or a social services district, where appropriate,~~
48 ~~shall each year conduct a minimum of one full inspection of each adult~~
49 ~~care facility. Such inspection] An inspection of an adult care facility
50 under this section shall include, but shall not be limited to, examina-
51 tion of the medical, dietary and social services records of the facility
52 as well as the minimum standards of construction, life safety standards,
53 quality and adequacy of care, rights of residents, payments and all
54 other areas of operation. The purpose of any inspection shall be to
55 determine compliance with requirements of applicable provisions of law
56 and regulations of the department.~~

(c) (i) An inspection report shall be made of each inspection which shall clearly identify and indicate in detail each area of operation, including, but not limited to, the premises, equipment, personnel, resident care and services, and whether ~~[each]~~ any such area of operation or any of its component parts is ~~[or is]~~ not in compliance with the regulations of the department and all other applicable requirements. It also shall identify those areas of operation or any of its component parts found not in compliance as a result of failure in systemic practices and procedures. The operator shall be notified of the results of the inspection in a manner to be determined by regulations of the department~~[. Such notification shall contain directions as may be appropriate as to the manner and time in which compliance with applicable requirements of law or regulations of the department shall be effected]~~ and shall submit a written plan of correction to the department within thirty calendar days from the date the inspection report is received. The department shall notify the operator of the acceptability of the plan of correction within thirty calendar days of the department's receipt of such plan.

(ii) The department shall also require the operator of an adult home, enriched housing program or residence for adults to develop, ~~[biannually]~~ annually update and implement plans for quality assurance activities for each area of operation. Quality assurance activities include but are not limited to, development and maintenance of performance standards including infection control, measurement of adherence to such standards and to applicable state and local laws and regulations, identification of performance failures, design, and implementation of corrective action. Each plan must also include the creation of a quality improvement committee that is charged with meeting periodically, at least once every six months, to review summary findings from monitoring implementation of the facility's plan, evaluating the effectiveness of corrective action policies, and identifying trends and improvement activities. While reviewing facility performance, the committee shall not examine personally identifiable resident incidents. Such committee shall include the administrator or operator of the facility, the resident council president or other resident representative, and representatives from frontline employees from each area of operation.

§ 12. Subparagraphs (I) and (II) of paragraph 2 of subdivision (i) of section 29.15 of the mental hygiene law, as amended by chapter 168 of the laws of 2010, are amended to read as follows:

(I) A patient about to be discharged or conditionally released from a department facility licensed or operated by the office for people with developmental disabilities or from an inpatient facility operated or licensed by the office of ~~[alcoholism and substance abuse]~~ addiction services and supports or the office of mental health to an adult home, enriched housing program or residence for adults, as defined in section two of the social services law, shall be referred only to such home or residence that is consistent with that patient's needs and that operates pursuant to section four hundred sixty of the social services law, provided further that: (A) for a department facility licensed or operated by the office for people with developmental disabilities or for an inpatient facility operated by the office of ~~[alcoholism and substance abuse]~~ addiction services and supports or the office of mental health, the facility director retains authority to determine whether the home, program or residence is consistent with that patient's needs and (B) such referral shall be made to the patient's home county whenever possible or appropriate.

(II) No patient about to be discharged or conditionally released from a department facility licensed or operated by the office for people with developmental disabilities or from an inpatient facility operated or licensed by the office of [~~alcoholism and substance abuse~~] addiction services and supports or the office of mental health shall be referred to any adult home, enriched housing program or residence for adults, as defined in section two of the social services law, which has received an official written notice from the department of health of: (A) the proposed revocation, suspension or denial of its operating certificate; (B) the limitation of its operating certificate with respect to new admissions; (C) the issuance of a department of health order or commissioner of health's order or the seeking of equitable relief pursuant to section four hundred sixty-d of the social services law; (D) the proposed assessment of civil penalties for violations of the provisions of [~~subparagraph two of~~] paragraph [~~(b)~~] (c) of subdivision seven of section four hundred sixty-d of the social services law; or placement on the "do not refer list" pursuant to subdivision fifteen of section four hundred sixty-d of the social services law. Referrals may resume when such enforcement actions are resolved.

§ 13. The commissioner of health shall develop a plan for posting all the plans of correction and statements of deficiencies for all forms of adult care facilities. Such plan shall include an analysis of the fiscal impact and the time required to post such information. Such plan shall be sent to the chairs of the senate and assembly health committees as well as the director of the budget within one hundred days from the effective date of this act.

§ 14. Severability clause. If any provision of this act, or any application of any provision of this act, is held to be invalid, or to violate or be inconsistent with any federal law or regulation, that shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of any other provision of this act, which can be given effect without that provision or application; and to that end, the provisions and applications of this act are severable.

§ 15. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law.