STATE OF NEW YORK

5106

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 19, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HARCKHAM, FERNANDEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law and the mental hygiene law, in relation to requiring certain SUNY and CUNY schools to establish substance use recovery housing programs

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

Section 1. Section 355 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 22 to read as follows:

22. The state university trustees shall adopt rules requiring that each institution of the state university of New York in which at least twenty-five percent of the undergraduate students live in on-campus housing establish a substance use recovery housing program to provide a supportive substance-free on-campus housing environment that recognizes the unique risks and challenges that recovering students face, and that provides support programs to recovering students who reside in the recovery housing to assist their efforts to remain substance-free. Such program shall include, at a minimum, on-site counseling, mentoring, and peer support. An institution may designate a floor, wing, or other designated area within an on-campus housing building for such substance use recovery housing program, and shall not be required to designate an entire dormitory building for the program. The institution shall apply for any federal, state, corporate, or other grant funding that may be available to implement such substance use recovery housing program. Each institution shall submit a plan for such substance use recovery housing program to the office of higher education to be reviewed and approved by the office of higher education, the office of addiction services and supports, and the office of mental health. Such plan shall be submitted within one year of the effective date of this subdivision.

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

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Each institution shall implement such substance use recovery housing program within four years after such plan is approved.

§ 2. Section 6206 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 24 to read as follows:

24. The board of trustees shall adopt rules requiring that each institution of the city university of New York in which at least twenty-five percent of the undergraduate students live in on-campus housing establish a substance use recovery housing program to provide a supportive substance-free on-campus housing environment that recognizes the unique risks and challenges that recovering students face, and that provides support programs to recovering students who reside in the recovery housing to assist their efforts to remain substance-free. Such program shall include, at a minimum, on-site counseling, mentoring, and peer support. An institution may designate a floor, wing, or other designated area within an on-campus housing building for such substance use recovery housing program, and shall not be required to designate an entire dormitory building for the program. The institution shall apply for any federal, state, corporate, or other grant funding that may be available to implement such substance use recovery housing program. Each institution shall submit a plan for such substance use recovery housing program to the office of higher education to be reviewed and approved by the office of higher education, the office of addiction services and supports, and the office of mental health. Such plan shall be submitted within one year of the effective date of this subdivision. Each institution shall implement such substance use recovery housing program within four years after such plan is approved.

§ 3. Section 7.07 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new subdivision (i) to read as follows:

(i) The office shall, in conjunction with the office of higher education and the office of addiction services and supports, review plans for the establishment of a substance use recovery housing program submitted by each institution of the state university of New York and the city university of New York and establish procedures for the approval and denial of such plans.

§ 4. Section 19.07 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new subdivision (o) to read as follows:

(o) The office shall, in conjunction with the office of higher education and the office of mental health, review plans for the establishment of a substance use recovery housing program submitted by each institution of the state university of New York and the city university of New York and establish procedures for the approval and denial of such plans.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.