

STATE OF NEW YORK

8888

IN SENATE

January 13, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to implementing the family essential program to create an advocacy, collaborative and an education infrastructure for essential family caregivers within nursing homes and other long term care communities

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

1 Section 1. Article 2 of the elder law is amended by adding a new title
2 2 to read as follows:

TITLE 2

FAMILY ESSENTIAL PROGRAM

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5 Section 230. Family essential program.

6 § 230. Family essential program. 1. There is hereby created within the
7 office a family essential program whose function and purpose shall be an
8 advocacy, collaborative and education infrastructure for essential fami-
9 ly caregivers in nursing homes and other long term care communities.

10 2. The family essential program shall set forth standards and prac-
11 tices designed to assist nursing homes and long term care community
12 stakeholders and providers by implementing varying advocacy structures
13 including, but not limited to: (a) monthly meetings with family essen-
14 tial care visitors and the resident representative in nursing homes and
15 long term care facilities; (b) making readily available materials and
16 care guides regarding statewide long term care services and support
17 systems; and (c) education sessions and modules that will support the
18 essential family care visitor to assist a resident in a nursing home or
19 long term care community to achieve person-centered care, dignity and
20 comfort and to maintain them at their highest level of functioning.

21 3. The family essential program shall provide for:

22 (a) monthly meetings within each nursing home and long term care
23 community to elicit feedback regarding care improvements to impact qual-
24 ity care. Information and data from meetings shall be provided to the
25 department of health;

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

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1 (b) monthly attendance at varying regional and individual facilities
2 to make accessible statewide resources and collaborative community care
3 tools;

4 (c) providing self-paced training modules for the essential care visi-
5 tor to learn best practices on how to collaborate best with facilities
6 to help contribute to residents being maintained at their highest level
7 of functioning during their stay; and

8 (d) coordination of advocacy and education with the office and other
9 relevant stakeholders.

10 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
11 have become a law.