STATE OF NEW YORK

9295

IN SENATE

February 25, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing the office of hospice and palliative care access and quality

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

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 4003 to read as follows:

§ 4003. Director of hospice and palliative care access and quality. 1. The office of hospice and palliative care access and quality is hereby created within the department. The commissioner shall appoint a director of the office and may employ such assistants and personnel as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this article.

2. The office shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) to provide expertise and input on hospice and palliative care policy development and regulation;

(b) to ensure hospice and palliative care providers, workers, and patients are considered when new policy or regulatory changes are contemplated, developed or implemented;

(c) to develop recommendations to improve patient care for individuals with chronic or life-limiting illnesses;

(d) to facilitate communication between the department and hospice and palliative care providers;

(e) to raise awareness and access to hospice and palliative care services;

(f) to identify and eliminate barriers to such services;

(g) to support models of care and service delivery that would assist in increasing utilization of hospice and palliative care services;

(h) to work to develop and promote innovative health care delivery models for hospice and palliative care services;

(i) to establish and monitor quality and utilization metrics to promote increased access to high-quality end-of-life care;

(j) to support community-wide efforts to promote advance care planning;

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

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(k) to work in collaboration with the state palliative care education and training council, centers for palliative care excellence, and palliative care practitioner resource centers, to assist in providing education on hospice and palliative care to state, regional, and local personnel;

(l) to ensure equitable access to hospice and palliative care services by underrepresented communities across New York state.

3. The commissioner, in conjunction with the director appointed pursuant to this section, shall prepare and submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly, and post such report on the department's website, by no later than two years following the effective date of this section and annually thereafter, outlining the activities of the office established pursuant to this section, and recommendations on matters within the scope of the director's duties as set forth in this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.