

STATE OF NEW YORK

9898

IN SENATE

April 13, 2026

Introduced by Sen. ZELLNER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to caseload standards for preventative services caseworkers

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

1 Section 1. Section 20-a of the social services law, as added by chap-
2 ter 107 of the laws of 1971, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 20-a. Local personnel; limitations on department's power. Notwith-
4 standing any inconsistent provision of this chapter, the board, the
5 commissioner or the department, acting singly or in unison, shall not
6 have the power, directly or indirectly to prescribe the number of
7 persons to be employed in any social services district providing the
8 district complies with the minimum federal standards relating thereto.

9 Provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not apply
10 to the regulations of the office of children and family services estab-
11 lishing caseload standards for preventative case planning services
12 promulgated pursuant to subdivision nine of section four hundred twen-
13 ty-one of this chapter.

14 § 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 153-k of the social
15 services law, as added by section 15 of part C of chapter 83 of the laws
16 of 2002, is amended to read as follows:

17 (a) Expenditures made by social services districts for child protec-
18 tive services, preventive services provided, as applicable, to eligible
19 children and families of children who are in and out of foster care
20 placement, independent living services, aftercare services, and adoption
21 administration and services other than adoption subsidies provided
22 pursuant to article six of this chapter and the regulations of the
23 department of family assistance shall, if approved by the office of
24 children and family services, be subject to sixty-five percent state
25 reimbursement exclusive of any federal funds made available for such
26 purposes, in accordance with the directives of the department of family
27 assistance and subject to the approval of the director of the budget.

28 Provided however, for requirements prescribed in subdivision nine of

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

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1 section four hundred twenty-one of this chapter, such expenditures shall
2 be subject to one hundred percent state reimbursement, provided that
3 local social services districts continue to maintain expenditures
4 related to preventative case planning services at a level equal to or
5 greater than expenditures for such activity during the fiscal year imme-
6 diately prior to the effective date of the chapter of the laws of two
7 thousand twenty-five which amended this paragraph.

8 § 3. Section 421 of the social services law is amended by adding a new
9 subdivision 9 to read as follows:

10 9. promulgate regulations in consultation with local social services
11 districts, relating to caseload standards for preventative case planning
12 services. Such standards shall be no more than twelve families per full-
13 time preventative case planning services caseworker per month. Nothing
14 in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit the office from
15 prescribing local social services districts from establishing caseload
16 guidelines that are less than what is required in this subdivision.

17 § 4. This act shall take effect two years after it shall have become a
18 law; provided, however that the amendments to section 153-k of the
19 social services law made by section two of this act shall not affect the
20 repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.