STATE OF NEW YORK

10300

IN ASSEMBLY

February 20, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. SEAWRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT directing the office of children and family services to conduct a statewide needs assessment on unmet needs of kinship caregivers; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the office of children and family services shall conduct a statewide needs assessment to identify any unmet needs, including, but not limited to, housing, mental health access, financial assistance, childcare, and respite care access for kinship caregivers. Such office shall further determine if needs are being met throughout the state; suggest necessary improvement areas and why certain areas need such improvement.

2. Upon request, every state and local agency shall cooperate with the office of children and family services. For the accomplishment of its purposes, the council may meet and hold public and/or private hearings within or without the state, and shall have all the powers of a legislative committee pursuant to the legislative law. The council is authorized and empowered to undertake any studies, inquiries, surveys or analyses it may deem relevant through its own personnel or in cooperation with or by agreement with any other public or private agency.

§ 2. The office of children and family services shall publish a report containing the findings of such needs assessment and methods for improvement. Such report shall be delivered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly no later than two years after the effective date of this act.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed two years after such effective date.

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

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