STATE OF NEW YORK

4826

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 6, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. E. BROWN, MAHER, TAGUE, DeSTEFANO, BRABENEC -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to providing mental home health care services to the aging

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

Section 1. Section 5.05 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new subdivision (f) to read as follows:

(f) The commissioner of the office of mental health and the director of the state office for the aging shall establish a mental home health care services program for the aging to facilitate access to mental home health care services to respond to identified mental health needs, including those needs that may have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the aging or families that may not have access to mental health professionals in-person. Such program shall provide up to five mental home health assessments, services and visits annually at no cost to the individual, for acute crisis response, mental health assessment, or initiation of care to reduce barriers and facilitate engagement in long-term care.

As soon as practicable, but no later than August first, two thousand twenty-six, the offices shall enter into an agreement with a vendor to create, or use an existing, website or web-based application, as a portal available to the aging and providers to facilitate the program. Such vendor shall be determined through a competitive bidding process.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.

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

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