STATE OF NEW YORK

5893--A

Cal. No. 146

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 24, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI, MEEKS, ZINERMAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families -- ordered to a third reading -- passed by Assembly and delivered to the Senate, recalled from the Senate, vote reconsidered, bill amended, ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to allowing prospective and current agency personnel complete training through remote training methods

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

Section 1. Section 409-g of the social services law, as added by chapter 611 of the laws of 1979, is amended to read as follows:

§ 409-g. Training of child welfare personnel. **1.** Within the amounts appropriated therefor, including all federal reimbursement received or to be received on account thereof, the department shall develop and implement a plan for the training of social services district and other authorized agency personnel, including caseworkers involved in the provision or supervision of preventive services, foster care services and adoption services. Such training shall include but need not be limited to:

[~~**1. Permanence**~~] **(a) permanence** casework: casework methodologies focused on activities designed to prevent placement in foster care or to shorten the length of stay in care for those children who can be returned home or freed for adoption;

[~~**2. Development**~~] **(b) development** of skills to facilitate rehabilitation or restoration of the family unit;

[~~**3. Development**~~] **(c) development** of knowledge and skills in legally freeing children for adoption and providing adoption services;

[~~**4. Development**~~] **(d) development** of knowledge and skills to prepare for court processes necessary in foster care and adoption; and

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

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[~~5. Development~~] (e) development of case management skills including planning for permanence for each child.

2. On or after April first, two thousand twenty-seven, such courses may be satisfactorily completed through distance learning methods which evince that all participants are in attendance for the duration of the course and are able to ask questions of the instructor. Each county shall be authorized to adopt a local law, ordinance or resolution to provide for a local department of social services to fulfill the training requirement established by this subdivision through a distance learning method, excluding the annual in service training requirement.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.