

STATE OF NEW YORK

6913

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 18, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. ZACCARO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Economic Development

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to domestic violence and sexual assault awareness education for licensed cosmetologists

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

1 Section 1. Section 408-b of the general business law, as amended by
2 chapter 71 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 408-b. Domestic violence and sexual assault awareness education. 1.
4 The department shall ~~[ensure that]~~ require all licensees and applicants
5 for a license or renewal pursuant to this article complete a course in
6 domestic violence and sexual assault awareness education ~~[courses are~~
7 ~~made available to all licensees and applicants for a license or renewal~~
8 ~~pursuant to this article and that such courses are]~~ which shall be
9 offered through the department's website. The department, in consulta-
10 tion with the office for the prevention of domestic violence and advoca-
11 cy groups recognized by the federal department of health and human
12 services or the federal department of justice, which have the ability to
13 coordinate statewide and with local communities on programming and
14 educational materials related to the prevention and intervention of
15 domestic violence or sexual assault in New York state, shall develop and
16 provide access to domestic violence and sexual assault awareness educa-
17 tion courses appropriate for those licensed under this article and shall
18 distribute educational materials to inform applicants under this article
19 about domestic violence and sexual assault awareness and prevention.
20 Such materials, including pamphlets, posters, and online resources,
21 shall be culturally competent, linguistically accessible, and tailored
22 to meet the needs of diverse populations, including victims of domestic
23 violence and their families.

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

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2. The office for the prevention of domestic violence and the department shall collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including domestic violence advocacy groups, law enforcement agencies, and social services organizations, to ensure the accuracy, relevance, and effectiveness of the educational materials required by this section. The office for the prevention of domestic violence shall be responsible for making the educational materials available on its website and through other channels, including cosmetology schools, salons, and spas.

3. The course required by this section shall be comprehensive and shall include the following elements:

(a) the definitions and dynamics of domestic violence, including its various forms, such as physical, emotional, financial, and sexual abuse;

(b) the signs and symptoms of domestic violence, including behavioral, physical, and emotional indicators;

(c) strategies for identifying and responding to victims of domestic violence, including how to initiate conversations, provide support, and connect victims with local resources;

(d) information about local resources, including domestic violence hotlines, shelters, and support groups;

(e) guidance on maintaining confidentiality and respecting victim autonomy;

(f) cultural and linguistic barriers that may impact victims' ability to seek help;

(g) strategies for creating a safe and supportive environment in the salon or spa; and

(h) information about the legal requirements and protections for victims of domestic violence, including restraining orders and victim compensation, shall also be part of the course.

4. The office for the prevention of domestic violence shall ensure that the course required by this section is available to and completed by all persons licensed under this article. The office for the prevention of domestic violence and the secretary of state are authorized to monitor compliance with this requirement and take enforcement action as necessary.

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