STATE OF NEW YORK

8719

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

June 2, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SANTABARBARA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law and the executive law, in relation to establishing a blue envelope program for persons with mental health disorders, behavioral disorders and persons who are neurodivergent

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

Section 1. Section 200 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 3 to read as follows:

3. (a) The commissioner shall establish a blue envelope program for operators and passengers of motor vehicles who suffer from mental health disorders, or behavioral disorders and who are neurodivergent. For the purposes of this subdivision, "neurodivergent" applies to persons including, but not limited to, persons who have autism, Tourette syndrome, and/or attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder. Such program shall provide durable blue envelopes to such persons. Such blue envelopes shall:

(i) be able to contain a person's driver's license or other government issued photo identification, vehicle registration, vehicle insurance card, and other related documents.

(ii) be able to fit into the glove compartment of a motor vehicle.

(iii) include information regarding such persons that would be useful to law enforcement and emergency services printed on the outside of the envelope.

(iv) include instructions for how to effectively communicate, reduce stress, and ensure everyone's safety during interactions with law enforcement.

(b) The commissioner shall make blue envelope program materials available by mail and at every state and county motor vehicles office.

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

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(c) The commissioner shall not require any person requesting materials from the blue envelope program to provide any medical information to receive such materials. The commissioner shall not maintain any information on any person who requests or receives materials from the blue envelope program.

§ 2. Section 840 of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 9 to read as follows:

9. The council shall promulgate rules and regulations requiring training and instruction for all police officers with respect to the blue envelope program established under subdivision three of section two hundred of the vehicle and traffic law. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, the purpose of the envelope, general information regarding mental health disorders, behavioral disorders, general information regarding neurodivergence, instructions on how to communicate with such individuals, instructions and techniques on stress reduction when interacting with such individuals, and how to ensure everyone's safety with law enforcement.

§ 3. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.