STATE OF NEW YORK

9409

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

December 19, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. WOERNER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing an intensive addiction recovery and mental health integrated services pilot program; 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. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Topher's Law".

§ 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 19.18-d to read as follows:

§ 19.18-d Intensive addiction and mental health integrated services pilot program.

1. Within the funds appropriated to the office, a pilot program shall be established to support two three-year demonstration programs that provide intensive addiction and mental health integrated services to individuals with significant addiction and mental health issues who have had multiple and frequent treatment episodes. One of the demonstration programs shall be located in a rural area and one shall be located in an urban setting as determined by the commissioner. The services provided shall include but not be limited to mental health counseling services for the individual experiencing significant addiction and mental health issues and their family, peer supports, and transportation assistance. Such services shall be primarily provided in the community or home of such individual, as clinically and socially necessitated.

2. Within one year after the conclusion of the demonstration program, the commissioner shall provide the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chair of the senate standing committee on alcoholism and substance use disorders, and the chair of the assembly committee on alcoholism and drug abuse with a written

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

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evaluation of the demonstration programs established pursuant to subdivision one of this section. Such evaluation shall, at a minimum, address the overall effectiveness of such demonstration programs, identify best practices for services provided under the demonstration programs and any additional services that may be appropriate within each type of program operated, regulated, funded, or approved by the office, and address whether continuation or expansion of the pilot program established by subdivision one of this section is recommended. The written evaluation shall be made publicly available on the office's website.

§ 3. This act shall take effect April 1, 2026 and shall expire on the ninetieth day following the submission of the report provided for pursuant to subdivision 2 of section 19.18-d of the mental hygiene law as added by section two of this act, when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed; provided that the commissioner of the office of addiction services and supports shall notify the legislative bill drafting commission upon the occurrence of the submission of such report provided for in section two of this act in order that the commission may maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effectuating the provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the public officers law.