STATE OF NEW YORK

10201

IN SENATE

May 5, 2026

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to the powers of the head of the office of mental health and the head of the office for people with developmental disabilities to promulgate rules regarding communications needs of non-English speaking individuals

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

Section 1. Subdivision (h) of section 7.09 of the mental hygiene law, as added by chapter 301 of the laws of 1994 and relettered by section 2 of part I of chapter 58 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

(h) The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to address the **language assistance services and** communications needs of non-English speaking individuals seeking or receiving services in facilities operated or licensed by the office in order to facilitate their access to services. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, **documents, forms and materials being available in English and the twelve most common non-English languages spoken by individuals in New York state based on United States census data, and other** reasonable means to accommodate the language capabilities and preferences of non-English speaking individuals in such facilities where a significant number of non-English speaking individuals seek or receive services.

§ 2. Subdivision (e) of section 13.09 of the mental hygiene law, as added by chapter 301 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

(e) The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to address the **language assistance services and** communications needs of non-English speaking individuals seeking or receiving services in facilities operated or licensed by the office in order to facilitate their access to services. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, **documents, forms, and materials being available in English and the twelve most common non-English languages spoken by individuals in New York state based on United States census data, and other** reasonable

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

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means to accommodate the language capabilities and preferences of non-English speaking individuals in such facilities where a significant number of non-English speaking individuals seek or receive services.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.