

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5958

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 4, 2025

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to requiring counties to maintain a registry of people of all ages with disabilities for evacuation and sheltering during disasters

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

1 Section 1. Section 23-a of the executive law, as added by chapter 658  
2 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 23-a. County registry of [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages with  
4 disabilities, as that term is defined in subdivision twenty-one of  
5 section two hundred ninety-two of this chapter; notice. 1. In each  
6 county having a local disaster preparedness plan pursuant to section  
7 twenty-three of this article, in order to meet the special needs of  
8 persons of all ages with disabilities who would need assistance during  
9 evacuations and sheltering because of physical or mental [~~handicaps~~]  
10 disabilities, it [~~is recommended~~] shall be required that each chief  
11 executive maintain a registry of [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages  
12 with disabilities located within the county. People of all ages with  
13 disabilities shall be given the option not to be included in the regis-  
14 try. The registration shall identify those persons in need of assistance  
15 and plan for resource allocation to meet those identified needs. To  
16 assist the chief executive in identifying such persons, the county  
17 department of health, the county department of social services, the  
18 county department of mental health, or such other county department or  
19 agency as designated by the chief executive, shall provide [~~voluntary~~]  
20 registration information to all of its [~~special needs~~] clients of all  
21 ages with disabilities and to all incoming clients as part of the intake  
22 process. The registry shall be updated annually. The registration  
23 program shall give [~~disabled persons~~] such people of all ages with disa-

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

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1 bilities the option of pre-authorizing emergency response personnel to  
2 enter their homes during search and rescue operations if necessary to  
3 assure their safety and welfare during disasters.

4 2. Upon the establishment of a [~~voluntary~~] registry of [~~disabled~~  
5 ~~persons~~] people of all ages with disabilities as provided in subdivision  
6 one of this section, the chief executive shall make such registry avail-  
7 able to the appropriate county, state and federal agencies for their use  
8 in delivering services in the event of a local or state disaster. The  
9 chief executive shall[~~, upon the request of the state emergency manage-~~  
10 ~~ment office,~~] provide such registry information to [~~such~~] the state  
11 emergency management office. The chief executive may, at [~~his~~] such  
12 chief executive's discretion, use the registry information for local  
13 disaster preparedness only in coordination with other political subdivi-  
14 sions of the state.

15 3. Upon the establishment of a [~~voluntary~~] registry of [~~disabled~~  
16 ~~persons~~] people of all ages with disabilities as provided in subdivision  
17 one of this section, at least semi-annually, each chief executive shall  
18 cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the  
19 county a notice of the availability of the [~~voluntary~~] registration  
20 program.

21 4. All records, data, information, correspondence and communications  
22 relating to the registration of [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages  
23 with disabilities as provided in subdivision one of this section are  
24 confidential, except that such information shall be available to other  
25 county chief executives for local disaster preparedness only as the  
26 chief executive of the county maintaining such registry deems necessary.  
27 Provided, however, the individual file of a person having registered  
28 with the registry of [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages with disabil-  
29 ities shall be made available to that person upon request.

30 5. All community-based services providers, including home health care  
31 providers, shall assist the chief executive by collecting registration  
32 information for people with special needs as part of program intake  
33 processes, establishing programs to increase the awareness of the regis-  
34 tration process, and educating clients about the procedures that may be  
35 necessary for their safety during disasters.

36 6. A county shall not be liable for any claim based upon the reason-  
37 able, good faith exercise or performance or the reasonable, good faith  
38 failure to exercise or perform a function or duty on the part of any  
39 officer or employee in carrying out a local disaster preparedness plan.

40 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
41 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.