STATE OF NEW YORK

8875

IN SENATE

January 13, 2026

Introduced by Sen. RHOADS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to establishing a caregiver crisis hotline

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

Section 1. The elder law is amended by adding a new section 206-a to read as follows:

§ 206-a. Caregiver crisis hotline. 1. The director, in consultation with the commissioner of mental health, shall establish a caregiver crisis hotline to provide emotional support resources for informal caregivers of a person in need of assistance.

2. Such crisis hotline shall be a toll-free telephone number, available statewide, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and shall provide a language assistance line to assist limited and non-English language speakers.

3. For the purposes of this section: (a) "Informal caregiver" shall mean the family member or other natural person who normally provides the daily care or supervision of a person in need of supervision, or any family member or other natural person who contributes to and is involved in the caretaking responsibilities for such person in need of supervision. Such informal caregiver may, but need not, reside in the same household as the person in need of supervision.

(b) "Person in need of supervision" shall mean any person who is unable to attend to their daily needs without the assistance or regular supervision of an informal caregiver due to mental or physical impairment. Such definition shall not exclude persons under eighteen years of age who suffer from mental or physical impairment.

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

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

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