STATE OF NEW YORK

8888

IN SENATE

January 13, 2026

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- 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 implementing the family essential program to create an advocacy, collaborative and an education infrastructure for essential family caregivers within nursing homes and other long term care communities

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

Section 1. Article 2 of the elder law is amended by adding a new title 2 to read as follows:

TITLE 2

FAMILY ESSENTIAL PROGRAM

Section 230. Family essential program.

§ 230. Family essential program. 1. There is hereby created within the office a family essential program whose function and purpose shall be an advocacy, collaborative and education infrastructure for essential family caregivers in nursing homes and other long term care communities.

2. The family essential program shall set forth standards and practices designed to assist nursing homes and long term care community stakeholders and providers by implementing varying advocacy structures including, but not limited to: (a) monthly meetings with family essential care visitors and the resident representative in nursing homes and long term care facilities; (b) making readily available materials and care guides regarding statewide long term care services and support systems; and (c) education sessions and modules that will support the essential family care visitor to assist a resident in a nursing home or long term care community to achieve person-centered care, dignity and comfort and to maintain them at their highest level of functioning.

3. The family essential program shall provide for:

(a) monthly meetings within each nursing home and long term care community to elicit feedback regarding care improvements to impact quality care. Information and data from meetings shall be provided to the department of health;

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

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(b) monthly attendance at varying regional and individual facilities to make accessible statewide resources and collaborative community care tools;

(c) providing self-paced training modules for the essential care visitor to learn best practices on how to collaborate best with facilities to help contribute to residents being maintained at their highest level of functioning during their stay; and

(d) coordination of advocacy and education with the office and other relevant stakeholders.

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