STATE OF NEW YORK

9221

IN SENATE

February 17, 2026

Introduced by Sen. C. RYAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harmful contaminants test strip program

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

Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 19.47 to read as follows:

§ 19.47 Medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harmful contaminants test strip program.

1. The commissioner shall establish a program whereby individuals may receive, free of charge, drug test strips to detect the presence of contaminants such as medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harmful contaminants. The following facilities may apply to distribute such test strips for medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harmful contaminants:

(a) hospital emergency rooms;

(b) addiction treatment facilities;

(c) facilities for substance use disorder programs;

(d) homeless shelters;

(e) urgent care centers;

(f) mobile medication units;

(g) treatment facilities as defined in paragraph five of subdivision (a) of section 22.09 of this title; and

(h) any other setting, as determined by the office, which is routinely accessed by individuals with a substance use disorder.

2. Individuals shall not be targeted by law enforcement when they are obtaining test strips for medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harmful contaminants at the facilities pursuant to subdivision one of this section.

3. The commissioner, in cooperation with the commissioner of the department of health, shall develop and conduct a public awareness and

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

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educational campaign on the dangers of medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harmful contaminants. Such campaign shall detail where medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harmful contaminants may be found and the availability of the free test strips for medetomidine, benzodiazepine, nitazenes, and/or other harmful contaminants at the facilities referenced in subdivision one of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.