STATE OF NEW YORK

9237

IN SENATE

February 18, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the definition of family for purposes of services provided by voluntary foster care agency health facilities

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 2999-gg of the public health law, as added by section 1 of part N of chapter 56 of the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

1. In order for an authorized agency that is approved by the office of children and family services to care for or board out children, to provide limited health-related services as defined in regulations of the department either directly or indirectly through a contract arrangement, such agency shall obtain, in accordance with a schedule developed by the department in conjunction with the office of children and family services, a license issued by the commissioner in conjunction with the office of children and family services to provide such services. Such schedule shall require that all such authorized agencies operating on January first, two thousand nineteen obtain the license required by this section no later than January first, two thousand nineteen. Such licenses shall be issued in accordance with the standards set forth in this article and the regulations of the department which shall, at a minimum, specify:

(a) mandated health services, which shall include, but not be limited to, nursing and behavioral health services; general physical environment requirements; minimum health and safety procedures; record management requirements; quality management activities; and managed care liaison, fiscal and billing activities**; and**

(b) to whom services may be provided, which shall include, but is not limited to children and youth in foster care, and their families, which for the purposes of this section shall include both the birth family and the foster family; other families receiving child welfare services from the authorized agency or the local departments of social services; and

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

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students with disabilities placed by a committee on special education pursuant to article eighty-nine of the education law. In determining the criteria for licensure, regulations shall take into account the size and type of each program, and shall be reasonably related to the provision of medical services. Provided however, that a license pursuant to this section shall not be required if such authorized agency is otherwise authorized to provide the required limited-health-related services to foster children under a license issued pursuant to article twenty-eight of this chapter or article thirty-one of the mental hygiene law. For the purposes of this section, the term authorized agency shall be an authorized agency as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision ten of section three hundred seventy-one of the social services law.

§ 2. This act shall take effect six months after it shall have become a law.