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LAWS OF NEW YORK, 2021

CHAPTER 12

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to requiring the commissioner to prepare a report of the homeless population during a state disaster emergency in publicly funded shelters, residential programs for victims of domestic violence, and residential programs for runaway and homeless youth

Became a law January 28, 2021, with the approval of the Governor.

Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present.

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

Section 1. Subdivision (d-1) of section 17 of the social services law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2020 amending the social services law relating to requiring the commissioner to prepare a report of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population during a state disaster emergency, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8643-A and A. 10566-A, is amended to read as follows:

(d-1)(1) in consultation with each local health department and each social services district in the county in which ~~the homeless~~ a publicly funded shelter is located, the commissioner of the department of health, the commissioner of the office of children and family services, the ~~commissioners~~ commissioner of the New York city department of homeless services, and the commissioner of the New York city department of health and mental hygiene, ~~shall collect~~ conduct a review of information, to the extent such information is known and available after making all diligent efforts, regarding the ~~sheltered and unsheltered~~ homeless population in publicly funded shelters, during a state disaster emergency, declared pursuant to executive order two hundred two of two thousand twenty or any extension or subsequent executive order issued in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including but not limited to, the following information:

(i) the number of confirmed infected individuals;

(ii) the number of hospitalizations;

(iii) the number of deaths;

(iv) information regarding the individual, if known~~;~~ : (a) age; (b) race; (c) family composition; (d) shelter status; (e) type of shelter including: family shelter, a shelter for adults, a hotel, an emergency apartment, a domestic violence shelter, a runaway and homeless youth shelter, or ~~as~~ a safe house for refugees; (f) any known risk factors; and (g) any other information the office deems appropriate;

(v) with regard to individuals residing in a residential program for victims of domestic violence or for runaway and homeless youth, information regarding the average number of individuals reported with a confirmed infection, the number and percentage of programs struggling with an outbreak, and the number and percentage of residents impacted in those programs compared to the program's maximum capacity.

(2) in consultation with the commissioner of health, utilizing the information ~~collected~~ reviewed pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subdivision and to the extent that confidentiality requirements set forth in law and regulation are maintained ~~, the commissioners shall~~ publish a report containing such information aggregated by county ~~and post it on the website of each respective agency~~. When confidentiality requirements set forth in law and regulation prevent the publication of information aggregated by county, the report shall contain such information aggregated for multiple counties and organized by geographic region. Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, for residential programs for victims of domestic violence and runaway and homeless youth, reported information shall be aggregated on a statewide basis.

(3) post the report on the office of temporary and disability assistance's website within sixty days of the effective date of this paragraph and update the report at least every three months thereafter during the state disaster emergency declared pursuant to executive order two hundred two of two thousand twenty or any extension or subsequent executive order issued in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Section 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2020 amending the social services law relating to requiring the commissioner to prepare a report of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population during a state disaster emergency, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8643-A and A. 10566-A, takes effect.

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