

Proposed Treatment Accessibility Bill

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to the measurement and disclose local needs for addiction facilities and treatment availability in the State of New York

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

1 Section 1. [Subdivision \(b\) of section 19.17 of the mental hygiene law](#),
2 as amended by chapter 596 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 (b) The commissioner shall establish the areas which each facility
5 under his or her jurisdiction shall serve and the categories of patients
6 which each such facility shall receive, retain, or treat.

~~—In cities with~~

~~—7 a population of one million or more, the commissioner shall ensure that~~

~~—8 there are no more than five facilities operating pursuant to this arti-~~

~~—9 cle within the jurisdiction of each community board.~~

~~The commissioner shall ensure treatment capacity is equitably distributed in neighborhoods so that patients have accessible healthcare and are not forced to travel long distances to seek healthcare and therefore reduce treatment efficacy. To this end, the commissioner must review and publicly release metrics that measure the local needs for treatment and treatment capacities in each district, and adjust program capacities where treatment needs are not met.~~

~~To support this periodic analysis over time, the commissioner shall collect granular data that measure the availability and local needs of treatment capacities by zip code.~~

~~The data of service needs of permanent and temporary residents in each zip code must include: (1) residential population, (2) overdose reports and death instances, (3) residents currently in treatment, and (4) residents who can benefit from treatment but are not in treatment. The commissioner must collect data specifying whether the residents are temporary neighborhood residents and the original permanent residence of the patient.~~

~~The data for service availability by zip code must be measured by (1) capacities licensed by the commissioner, and (2) other private treatment capacities not licensed by the commissioner.~~

~~[The Council of Treatment Equity](#) (A01927) is mandated to provide oversight to monitor that treatment capacity is equitably distributed to reduce patient travel distance and increase treatment accessibility. On a quarterly basis, with patients' confidential data removed, the commissioner shall report to the Council of Treatment Equity on the distribution of service availability and local needs by zip code, as well as aggregated by assembly and senate districts, and to also to publicly release this data.~~

The commissioner

10 shall provide for priority of admission for persons whose children have
11 been placed in foster care or are in jeopardy of being so placed pursu-
12 ant to article ten of the family court act or article six of the social
13 services law.

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