

Youth Services
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The Council of the City of New York

COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

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COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

Honorable Deborah Rose, Chair

March 6, 2018

Proposed Int. No. 490-A:

By Council Member Gibson, the Speaker (Council Member Johnson), and Council Members Rose, Treyger and Moya

TITLE:

A Local Law to amend administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to time frames for runaway and homeless youth shelter services

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:

Amends chapter 4 of title 21 by adding a new section 21-407

Proposed Int. No. 410-A:

By the Speaker (Council Member Johnson), and Council Members Rose, Treyger and Moya

TITLE:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to shelter for runaway and homeless youth

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:

Amends chapter 4 of title 21 by adding new sections 21-408 and 21-409

Proposed Int. No. 556-A:

By Council Member Torres, the Speaker (Council Member Johnson), and Council Members Rivera, Rose, Treyger and Moya

TITLE:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to runaway and homeless youth services for homeless young adults

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:

Amends chapter 4 of title 21 by adding a new section 21-406

I. Introduction

On March 6, 2018, the Committee on Youth Services, chaired by Council Member Rose, will hold a hearing on Proposed Int. 410-A, 490-A and 556-A. This will be the third hearing on the bills. The first was held last session on September 27, 2017 and the second was held on February 13, 2018. Representatives from the Department of Youth and Community Development (“DYCD”), advocates for homeless youth, shelter providers, and other concerned members of the runaway and homeless youth community testified at both hearings. Amendments were made to the bills after the last hearing.

II. Challenges Facing Runaway & Homeless Youth

Homeless youth account for one of the most vulnerable populations the New York City (“the City”) serves. There are many reasons that youth find themselves on the streets including family conflict, a lack of available affordable housing, and family poverty.¹ Youth run away from home for numerous reasons including violence, abuse or neglect at home, mental illness or

¹ “The RHY Impact Study” available at, <http://www.cduhr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/White-Paper-RHY-IMPACT-2017-09-15.pdf>.

substance abuse among family members, or challenges at school.² Some youth endure rejection from their families because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, an unplanned pregnancy, drug or alcohol use, or the inability to comply with parent/caretaker rules.³ Youth who age out of foster care or are discharged from detention in juvenile or other justice facilities are also at a high risk for homelessness.⁴ Risk factors of homeless youth are compounded because they “age out” and are unable to access many services the City offers to youth who are age 21 years or younger.⁵

The street homeless youth population is a unique population that is inherently difficult to accurately capture. Since the City does not have an accurate accounting of the number of homeless youth on the streets, there is a gap between the resources currently available to homeless youth, and the actual need. However, the City has recently made efforts to improve how it tracks the number of homeless youth in the City, which will be discussed further. Furthermore, advocates have called upon the Administration to provide additional beds for the youth population and the City responded with a plan to add 100 beds a year over the span of three years to try and close the gap.⁶

In addition to a lack of available beds for youth, stakeholders note that there is also a lack of mental health services for homeless youth.⁷ Runaway and homeless youth (RHY) experience high rates of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect, trauma, and chronic stress

² “The Department of Youth and Community Development Residential and Non-Residential Runaway and Homeless Youth Services Concept Paper” September 18, 2017, *available at*, https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/concept_papers/FY2018_RHY_Concept_Paper.pdf. (hereinafter “DYCD Concept Paper”).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ DYCD, Runaway and Homeless Youth, *available at*, <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/runaway-homeless-youth.page>.

⁶ The City of New York, “Turning the Tide on Homelessness in New York City” (Feb. 23, 2017) *available at* <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dhs/downloads/pdf/turning-the-tide-on-homelessness.pdf> (hereinafter “Turning the Tide report”).

⁷ RHY Impact Study, *supra* note 1 at 60.

throughout their lives.⁸ Additionally, not only can poverty and unstable housing severely impact the mental health of RHY; the experience of living on the streets and being exposed to violence and exploitation can cause young people to experience high levels of trauma, exacerbate past trauma, and spur further psychological issues such as anxiety and depression.⁹ This trauma experienced by youth makes the search for stable and permanent housing even more difficult.¹⁰ Currently providers do not collect much information on the mental health needs of homeless youth, but mental health issues continue to impede homeless youth's path to stable and permanent housing.¹¹

As mentioned above, homeless youth have a unique set of vulnerabilities that makes the path to permanency even more difficult than their older adult counterparts.¹² Many have not finished school or are trying to complete their education; many are disconnected from formal workforce settings, or are estranged from a parental support system and are forced to figure things out with little experience of the obligations of adulthood.¹³ Despite this increased vulnerability, youth were previously only allowed to stay in a DYCD Crisis Shelters on a voluntary basis for a maximum of 60 days.¹⁴ However, changes in the law discussed below would permit longer stays at the option of the locality.

III. DYCD Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelters and Services

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ "Homeless Young Adults Can Fall through a Crack in Shelter System" February 3, 2016, *available at*, <https://citylimits.org/2016/02/03/homeless-young-adults-can-fall-through-a-crack-in-shelter-system/>

¹¹ RHY Impact Study, *supra* note 1.

¹² Homeless Young Adults Can Fall through a Crack in Shelter System, *supra* note 10.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ NY Exec. L § 532-b.

Shelters and other services for RHY are under the jurisdiction of DYCD. DYCD's services for RHY are designed to protect and reunite RHY with their families when possible.¹⁵ These services include Transitional Independent Living ("TIL") facilities, Crisis Shelters, and Drop-In Centers. DYCD's shelter system is also complimented by it Street Outreach teams and referral services.¹⁶ DYCD also offers specialized programming for RHY who are either pregnant or parenting, sexually exploited, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning ("LGBTQ") youth.¹⁷

TIL facilities serve youth between the ages of 16 and 21.¹⁸ Currently, youth can live in a TIL facility for 18 months or beyond the 18-month time limit if the youth is not yet 18 when the time limit is reached.¹⁹ All TIL programs are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.²⁰ TIL programs offer youth services such as vocational training, educational programs, counseling, basic life skills training, and educational programs.²¹ For fiscal year (FY) 2017, the number of RHY served in TIL programs increased by 27 percent, going up from 519 in FY 2016 to 659 in FY 2017.²²

DYCD's Crisis Shelters offer short-term emergency shelter and crisis intervention services aimed at reuniting youth with their families, or where family reunification is not possible, arranging appropriate transitional and long-term placements.²³ Crisis Shelters serve

¹⁵ DYCD, Runaway and Homeless Youth, *supra* note 5.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ DYCD, Transitional Independent Living, *available at*, <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/runaway-homeless-youth/transitional-independent-living.page> (last accessed Sept. 20, 2017).

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² Fiscal 2017 Mayor's Management Report, (Sept. 2017), 237, *available at*, http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/operations/downloads/pdf/mmr2017/2017_mmr.pdf (hereinafter "FY 17 MMR").

²³ DYCD, Crisis Shelters, *available at*, <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/runaway-homeless-youth/crisis-shelters.page> (last accessed Sept. 20, 2017).

youth up to the age of 21.²⁴ Currently, runaway youth may spend 30 days, or 60 days with the consent of a parent or guardian, in a crisis shelter.²⁵ This timeframe is a quick turn around for youth to organize and figure out their lives out and leaves many youth having to reapply for another stay at a crisis shelter or they end up back on the streets.²⁶ However, pursuant to changes in state law which took effect as of January 1, 2018, crisis shelters have the option of increasing these timeframes. For FY 2017, 2,340 youth were served in Crisis Shelters, an 8.5 percent decrease from FY 2016 where 2,539 youth were served.²⁷

Drop-In centers provide emergency intervention services for youth not older than 24 years of age and their families.²⁸ Drop-In centers are located in each of the five boroughs and provide necessary items such as immediate shelter, food, and clothing, and services such as counseling, support, and referrals to relevant services.²⁹ Three Drop-In centers are located Manhattan. Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx, and Staten Island each have one drop-in center.³⁰ Such centers are open six days a week.³¹ Although youth ages 21-24 may utilize drop-in centers, which can connect them to services, such facilities do not provide them with the temporary emergency housing that they often need.³² Outreach programs, like the Ali Forney Center, can help older youth find housing, but it can take up to 6 months to a year to find a bed.³³

RHY Outreach Efforts

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ NY Exec. L § 532-b.

²⁶ Homeless Young Adults Can Fall through a Crack in Shelter System, *supra* note 10.

²⁷ FY 17 MMR, *supra* note 22.

²⁸ DYCD, Borough Based Drop in Shelters, *available at*, <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/runaway-homeless-youth/borough-based-drop-in-centers.page> (last accessed Sept. 20, 2017).

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ [Local Law 23 of 2013: 2016 Annual Report, page 9.](#)

³¹ *Id.*

³² *Id.*

³³ “Unplugged: Tackling Youth Homelessness,” *available at*, <https://www.robinhood.org/unplugged-tackling-youth-homelessness/>.

DYCD also conducts outreach efforts to RHY through its Street Outreach teams who develop a rapport with RHY and inform them about the services available through DYCD.³⁴ The Street Outreach teams are also responsible for referring RHY to other service providers, transporting them to crisis shelters, a safe location, or back to their homes or to relatives.³⁵ Safe Horizon's Streetwork Project is the contracted provider responsible for conducting the street outreach to RHY.³⁶ The Street Outreach teams focus on areas such as subway stations and transportation hubs where RHY are known to congregate.³⁷ The Street Outreach teams are an important component of DYCD's RHY program because they serve as an entry point for youth into DYCD's RHY system.³⁸

Enhanced Services for RHY

In early 2016, as part of his comprehensive review and restructuring of the services provided to homeless individuals and families, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that his Administration would be adding 300 beds to the RHY over the next three years.³⁹ In addition to the beds, more staff will be deployed to coordinate services for youth entering shelters under the purview of DHS.⁴⁰ In all, the de Blasio Administration plans to add an additional 500 beds for RHY, bringing that total to 753 beds by FY 2019.⁴¹ From FY 14 to FY 17, the number of

³⁴ DYCD, Street Outreach, *available at*, <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/runaway-homeless-youth/street-outreach.page> (last accessed Sept. 20, 2017).

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ [Local Law 23 of 2013: 2016 Annual Report, page 9-10.](#)

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ Office of the Mayor, Mayor de Blasio, DYCD Commissioner Chong, and HRA Commissioner Banks Announce Enhanced Services to Address Youth Homelessness, January 2016, *available at*, <http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/032-16/mayor-de-blasio-dycd-commissioner-chong-hra-commissioner-banks-enhanced-services-to#/0>

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ Department of Youth and Community Development, 2016 Annual Report, 16, *available at*, https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/2016_Annual_Report_DYCD_Final.pdf

certified residential RHY beds increased from 329 to 465⁴² and continued to increase to 525 as of the fall 2017.⁴³

On September 18, 2017, DYCD released a Concept Paper as a precursor to two forthcoming Requests for Proposals (RFP) in response to Mayor Bill de Blasio's funding and policy changes that would enable DYCD to significantly expand Crisis Shelters, TIL programs, and Drop-In Centers.⁴⁴ The expansion of services will also include specific services to RHY who identify as LGBTQ, who are over-represented in the RHY population as previously mentioned.⁴⁵ Supplemental funding from ThriveNYC will also allow DYCD to better address RHY with mental health needs.⁴⁶

The RFP also stated that providers will be able to allow youth to stay in TIL programs for up to 24 months under forthcoming regulations by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) pursuant to recent changes in New York Executive Law, which will be discussed in further detail below.⁴⁷ In addition to youth ages 16-20, under the new RFP, TIL programs will be able to serve youth ages 21-24, but with DYCD's permission "subject to the availability of additional resources and changes in the OCFS's regulations."⁴⁸ Programs with Crisis Shelters will also be able to serve youth ages 21-24 with permission from DYCD, subject to the availability of additional resources and changes in the OCFS's regulations.⁴⁹ The regulations also

⁴² FY 17 MMR, *supra* note 22.

⁴³ According to testimony by DYCD Commissioner Chong at September 27, 2017 Youth Services Committee Oversight meeting on Safe and Accessible Shelter for Homeless Youth.

⁴⁴ DYCD Concept Paper, *supra* note 2.

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ *Id.*

allow youth to remain in crisis shelters for up to 120 days.⁵⁰ As of now, there are no plans to allow shelters to serve homeless young adults aged 21-24.

New York City Youth Count

Every year, New York City conducts a point-in-time (“PIT”) count of homeless adults, families, and youth based on the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”).⁵¹ However, a supplemental youth count focusing specifically on unsheltered youth was initiated by City agencies, RHY service providers, and advocates because the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (“HOPE”) count was not accurately capturing unsheltered youth because unsheltered youth exhibit different characteristics than older adults experiencing homelessness.⁵² For example, homeless youth tend to congregate in different places than older adults or may have different survival methods than older adults.⁵³ Additionally, homeless youth may try to remain out of sight during the time the homeless count is taking place.⁵⁴

Understanding the characteristics of youth homelessness is particularly important because it allows the City to improve programs and policies targeting this population to better address their specific needs.⁵⁵ For example, basic demographic information such as gender, age, and sexual orientation can influence the types of additional programming that should be implemented or redesigned.⁵⁶ Even information highlighting a youth’s history of homelessness, including the

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ New York City Youth Count Report 2016, *available at*, http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/cidi/downloads/pdfs/youth_count_report_2016.pdf.

⁵² *Id.*; HUD defines an unsheltered youth as an individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground. This means youth who couch surf, exchange sex for shelter, are in institutions such as jail or hospitals or in shelters/drop-in centers do not count toward the unsheltered totals submitted to HUD. However, information about these youth was collected in the supplemental youth count.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *Id.*

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ *Id.* at 4.

type of places stayed and the length of time they have been homeless, helps to formulate and establish better methods of prevention and intervention points of service.⁵⁷

The 2016 PIT and 2017 PIT count attempted to improve the accuracy of the 2015 PIT count by targeting more locations, conducting extensive outreach to community partners, and integrating youth participation in the planning process.⁵⁸ Some of the new sites that were targeted included drop-in centers, libraries, and other community-based services.⁵⁹ Additionally, communication about the count was extended to community boards, Borough Presidents' Offices, public recreation centers, community programs, and other City agencies.⁶⁰ The data was collected through outreach or through programs that youth, aged 24 and under, contacted.⁶¹ As a result of those efforts, 388 more youth were counted in 2016 than in 2015, while 504 more youth were counted in 2017 than in 2016, as shown in the chart below:⁶²

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ 2017 NYC Youth Count Report, available at http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/cidi/downloads/pdfs/youth_count_report_2017_final.pdf,

⁵⁹ *Id.* at 6.

⁶⁰ 6;

New York City Youth Count Report 2016, *available at*, http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/cidi/downloads/pdfs/youth_count_report_2016.pdf.

⁶¹ *Id.* at 5

⁶² 2017 NYC Youth Count Report, available at, http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/cidi/downloads/pdfs/youth_count_report_2017_final.pdf,

Overall Youth PIT Numbers
24 and Under

	PIT Numbers		
	2015	2016	2017
Unaccompanied Youth	1,706	1,805	2,003
Sheltered	1,518	1,653	1,738
Unsheltered	188	152	265
Parenting Youth	2,114	2,261	2,525
Sheltered	2,114	2,261	2,525
Unsheltered	0	0	0
Children with Parenting Youth	2,539	2,681	2,723
Sheltered	2,539	2,681	2,723
Unsheltered	0	0	0
Total	6,359	6,747	7,251
Sheltered	6,171	6,595	6,986
Unsheltered	188	152	265

The 2017 Youth Count Data also found 194 youth were in other unstable living situations⁶³ as well as 791 youth in stable living situations.⁶⁴ Both of these numbers are only from the Youth Count and does not include information about individuals counted through HOPE or the shelter census tabulations.⁶⁵ However, street homeless youth also tend to hang out in 24-hour businesses where they are able to pose as customers, charge their phones, and enjoy a

⁶³ *Id.* at 9. Some of the unstable living situations include hospital/mental health facilities, hotel/motel, couch surfing, shelter/drop-in centers/transitional living centers/church, prison, sex for shelter, forced sex for shelter/trafficked, boyfriend/girlfriend’s place (due to lack of stable housing).

⁶⁴ *Id.*. Some of the stable living situations include parent’s apartment, own apartment/room/dorm, other relative’s apartment, friend’s place (for social reasons), boyfriend/girlfriend’s place (for social reasons) due to lack of stable housing, etc.

⁶⁵ *Id.*

safe and temperature-controlled environment in the middle of the night.⁶⁶ These 24-hour businesses are not subject to current PIT Count methodologies, and therefore, there may be even more homeless youth who are left unaccounted for.⁶⁷

IV. Recent Changes to State Executive Law Article 19-H – “Runaway and Homeless Youth Act”

Article 19-H of the State Executive Law, otherwise known as the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (“RHYA”), outlines services provided to RHY, along with the plan municipalities must submit describing its RHY services in order to qualify for State reimbursement.⁶⁸ Recently, through the FY 2018 State budget, the RHYA was amended to allow localities several options to provide additional services to the RHY population, if such options are provided for in the municipality’s plan. The law took effect January 1, 2018 and includes the following changes:

- RHY shelters may serve “homeless young adults,” which is defined as youth 21-24.
- The amount of time youth may remain in a crisis shelter or TIL facility was extended as follows:
 - A runaway youth aged 14 or older receiving shelter services in a residential crisis services program may remain in the program for up to 60 days, or up to 120 days if the runaway youth and the youth’s parent, guardian or custodian agree in writing that the youth may remain in the program. Youth may remain beyond that time limit if OCFS is notified in writing within 60 days.
 - A homeless youth receiving shelter services at a TIL facility may remain the program for up to 24 months, or beyond 24 months limit if the homeless youth entered the TIL facility before turning 21 and the OCFS is notified in writing within 60 days.

V. Bill Analysis

Proposed Int. 490-A - A Local Law to amend administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to time frames for runaway and homeless youth shelter services

⁶⁶ “Annual Street Homeless Count Shows 40 Percent Increase Over 2016,” July 5, 2017, *available at* http://gothamist.com/2017/07/05/homeless_count_2017.php

⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁸ NY Exec L. § 420.

Consistent with recent amendments to the New York State Runaway and Homeless Youth Act which came into effect January 1, 2018, this bill would require DYCD to require that runaway and homeless youth are provided with shelter services pursuant to certain time frames. After its hearing on February 13, 2018, several technical, non-substantive changes were made to this bill.

This bill would require that, consistent with Section 532-b of the New York State Executive Law, a runaway youth aged 14 or older residing in a residential runaway and homeless youth crisis services program would be allowed to stay in the program on a voluntary basis for up to 60 days, or up to 120 days if the youth and their parent, guardian or custodian agree in writing that the youth could remain in the program. Consistent with Section 420 of New York State Executive Law, Int. No. 1699 would allow a youth to remain in shelter beyond the time limits if the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is notified in writing within 60 days. Int. No. 1699 would also require that, consistent with Section 532-d of the New York State Executive Law, a homeless youth residing in a transitional independent living support program would be provided with shelter in the program for up to 24 months, or consistent with Section 420 New York State Executive Law, beyond the 24 months limit if the homeless youth entered the transitional independent living support program before the age of 21 and the OCFS is notified in writing within 60 days. This bill would take effect immediately.

Proposed Int. 410-A - A Local Law to amend administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to shelter for runaway and homeless youth

This bill would require DYCD to submit an annual report due October 1 of each year to the Speaker of the Council and post on its website on runaway and homeless youth. This bill would require the report to include a description of the size and characteristics of the current population of runaway and homeless youth, a description of the service needs of the current

population, a breakdown of the youth who exited the temporary shelter system in the previous calendar year, and a description of the public and private resources available to serve such youth. Since it was heard on February 13, 2018, the characteristics of the population to be reported were amended to include pregnancy and parenting status, among other listed characteristics. Several technical, non-substantive amendments were also made. This bill would also require DYCD to develop a capacity plan, due October 1, 2018, to provide shelter to all runaway and homeless youth who request shelter. This bill would take effect immediately.

Proposed Int. 556-A - A Local Law to amend administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to runaway and homeless youth services for homeless young adults

Consistent with recent amendments to the New York State Runaway and Homeless Youth Act which became effective January 1, 2018, this bill would require DYCD to include shelter services for homeless young adults among shelter services it provides to runaway and homeless youth. Since it was heard on February 13, 2018, the bill was amended to include clarifying language that DYCD would not be required to serve “all such young adults”; however, the requirement that it include some shelter services for this category remained. Homeless young adults would be defined the same as in Section 532-a of the New York State Executive Law, which is a person who is age 24 or younger but is at least 21 and who is in need of services and is without a place of shelter. This law would take effect January 1, 2019, which is a change from the prior bill heard on February 13, 2018 that would have taken effect immediately.

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Proposed Int. No. 490-A

By Council Member Gibson, the Speaker (Council Member Johnson), Rose, Treyger and Moya

A LOCAL LAW

To the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to time frames for runaway and homeless youth shelter services

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

1 Section 1. Chapter 4 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is
2 amended to add new section 21-407 to read as follows:

3 § 21-407 Time frames for runaway and homeless youth shelter services. The
4 department shall require that runaway youth and homeless youth are provided with shelter
5 services pursuant to the following time frames:

6 a. Consistent with section 532-b of the executive law, a runaway youth aged 14 or older
7 receiving shelter services in a residential runaway and homeless youth crisis services program
8 shall be provided with shelter services in such program on a voluntary basis for up to 60 days, or
9 up to 120 days if the runaway youth and such youth's parent, guardian or custodian agree in
10 writing that such youth may remain in such program, or consistent with section 420 of the
11 executive law, beyond such time limits if the office of children and family services is notified in
12 writing within 60 days.

13 b. Consistent with section 532-d of the executive law, a homeless youth receiving shelter
14 services in a transitional independent living support program shall be provided with shelter
15 services in such program for up to 24 months, or consistent with section 420 of the executive
16 law, beyond 24 months limit if the homeless youth entered the transitional independent living

1 support program under the age of 21 and the office of children and family services is notified in
2 writing within 60 days.

3 § 3. This local law takes effect immediately.

AV

LS #3534/1699-2017

LS 889

2/26/18, 5:30pm

Proposed Int. No. 410-A

By The Speaker (Council Member Johnson) and Council Members Rose, Treyger and Moya

A LOCAL LAW

To amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to shelter for runaway and homeless youth

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 4 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended to add new section 21-408 to read as follows:

1 § 21-408 Runaway and homeless youth reporting. a. Definitions. For the purposes of
2 this section, the term “test assessing secondary completion (TASC)” means the New York state
3 high school equivalency test which replaced the General Education Development (GED) as the
4 primary pathway to a New York state high school equivalency diploma.

5 b. Not later than October 1, 2018, and on or before October 1 annually thereafter, the
6 department shall submit to the speaker of the council and post on its website annual reports on
7 the prior fiscal year ending June 30th regarding runaway and homeless youth. Such reports shall
8 include, but not be limited to, the following information:

9 1. A description of the size and characteristics of the current population of runaway and
10 homeless youth, to the extent known, including but not limited to gender identity, sexual
11 orientation, race, ethnicity, pregnancy and parenting status, and disabilities.

12 2. A description of the service needs of the current population of runaway and
13 homeless youth, to the extent known, including but not limited to educational assistance, TASC

1 preparation, medical services, mental health services, services for sexually exploited children,
2 and temporary shelter.

3 3. A breakdown of the dispositions of runaway and homeless youth who exited the
4 temporary shelter system in the previous calendar year disaggregated by categories including but
5 not limited to transitioned from a runaway and homeless youth crisis services program to a
6 transitional independent living support program, reconnected with family, transitioned to a
7 department of homeless services shelter, transitioned to a New York city housing authority
8 apartment, transitioned to a private apartment, and exited to an unknown location.

9 4. A description of the public resources available to serve runaway and homeless youth
10 including any new services established since the submission of the previous report required
11 pursuant to this section and any existing services that will be expanded.

12 § 2. Chapter 4 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended
13 to add new section 21-409 to read as follows:

14 § 21-409 Capacity plan. No later than October 1, 2018, the department shall develop
15 and submit to the speaker of the council and post on its website a plan to provide shelter services
16 to all runaway youth and homeless youth who request such shelter from the department,
17 consistent with regulations of the office of children and family services. Such plan shall be
18 informed by the report required pursuant to section 21-404.

19 § 3. This local law takes effect immediately.

AV
LS #4033/Int. 1700-2017
LS 5448
2/27/18, 12:49pm

Proposed Int. No. 556-A

By Council Member Torres, The Speaker (Council Member Johnson), Rivera, Rose, Treyger and Moya

A LOCAL LAW

To amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to runaway and homeless youth services for homeless young adults

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 4 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended to add new section 21-406 to read as follows:

1 § 21-406 Services for homeless young adults. The department shall include shelter services for
2 homeless young adults as part of runaway and homeless youth services, but need not serve all
3 such young adults.

4 § 2. This local law takes effect January 1, 2019.

AV
LS 307
LS #6138/10769/Int. 1706-2017
2/27/18, 9:36pm