

MEMORANDUM

A.7854 (Gottfried)/S.5605 (Rivera)

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to including the record of completion of annually required in-service education in the state home care worker registry

Home care workers are required to complete in-service education on an annual basis. A.7854 (Gottfried)/S.5605 (Rivera) would require entities providing in-service training, typically the agencies that employ or contract with the home care worker, to submit a record of in-service training to the Home Care Worker Registry. Currently, this information is not required to be submitted to the Registry.

Submission of records of completion of annual in-service would help expedite the hiring process of new home care workers. Agencies would not have the administrative burden of tracking down and confirming this information from prior employers. This would be helpful as workforce shortages in this field already make hiring difficult.

The requirement would also help eliminate the unintended practice of home care workers being required to complete multiple in-service trainings simply because they contract with multiple agencies. A home health aide is only required by regulation to complete 12 hours of in-service education a year. However, when aides contract with multiple agencies, they often end up completing a full 12 hours of in-service for each agency – sometimes, this ends up being three times or more the amount of training required by regulation. Having this information on record within the Registry would help eliminate this practice and allow the agencies and aides to focus on actual care instead. This bill would in no way prevent an agency from providing additional training to an aide if it deems that necessary.

For these reasons, LeadingAge New York supports A.7854 (Gottfried)/S.5605 (Rivera) and urges that it be adopted.

LeadingAge New York represents over 400 not-for-profit and public long term care providers, including nursing homes, home care agencies, senior housing, retirement communities, assisted living, adult care facilities, adult day health care and managed long term care.