

STATUS:

S 3483 HUNTLEY Same as [A 7566](#) Rivera P
Departmental Bill # 36
Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental
Disabilities (Internal # 1 - 2009)
ON FILE: 03/23/09 Mental Hygiene Law
TITLE....Changes the name of the office of mental
retardation and developmental disabilities to the
New York state developmental disabilities services
office; repealer
03/20/09 REFERRED TO MENTAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
04/01/09 1ST REPORT CAL.140
04/02/09 2ND REPORT CAL.
04/03/09 ADVANCED TO THIRD READING
04/06/09 PASSED SENATE
04/06/09 DELIVERED TO ASSEMBLY
04/06/09 referred to mental health

A7566 Rivera P Same as [S 3483](#)
HUNTLEY
Departmental Bill # 36
Office of Mental Retardation and
Developmental Disabilities (Internal # 1 -
2009)
Mental Hygiene Law
TITLE....Changes the name of the office of
mental retardation and developmental
disabilities to the New York state
developmental disabilities services office;
repealer
04/14/09 referred to mental health
04/21/09 reported referred to ways and
means

SPONSORS MEMO:

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
INTRODUCER'S MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
submitted in accordance with Senate Rule VI. Sec 1**

BILL NUMBER: S3483

SPONSOR: HUNTLEY

TITLE OF BILL:

An act to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to changing the name of the office of mental retardation and developmental disabilities to the New York state developmental disabilities services office; and to repeal subdivision 6 of section 29.29 of such law relating thereto

PURPOSE OF THE BILL:

This bill would amend the Mental Hygiene Law to change the name of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the New York State Developmental Disabilities Services Office and would make a technical correction to the Mental Hygiene Law (MHL) by repealing section 29.29 (6).

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

Sections 1 through 29 and 31 through 46 of the bill would amend various provisions of the MHL to change the name of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the New York State Developmental Disabilities Services Office.

Section 30 of the bill would make a technical correction to the MHL, repealing section 29.29(6), which has no text.

Section 47 of the bill would provide that whenever the former Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities is referred to in laws, contracts and other documents such references will be deemed to refer to the New York State Developmental Disabilities Services Office or the Commissioner thereof.

Section 48 of the bill would provide that no existing right or remedy of any character would be lost, impaired or affected by reason of this bill.

Section 49 of the bill would provide for a severability clause.

Section 50 of the bill would provide for an immediate effective date.

EXISTING LAW:

Currently, the MHL provides for the agency's name to be the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

This is a new proposal.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT:

The name change provided for by this bill reflects the growing consensus among professionals and consumer advocacy groups that the use of person-centered language is important when referring to persons with disabilities, including persons who have developmental disabilities.

Instead of referring to the "mentally retarded," it is more appropriate to refer to such individuals as "persons with developmental disabilities" so that the person is emphasized and not the disability. The term "mental retardation" is attached to a significant stigma and has negative connotations. It is appropriate for the agency's name to reflect a person-centered philosophy and to reflect the shift away from the use of the term "mental retardation."

This name change would clarify that the agency serves persons with all types of developmental disabilities and conditions, not just those with mental retardation. The name change will avoid unnecessary confusion between the name of the State's central office for developmental disabilities services and the local developmental disabilities services offices.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The fiscal impact associated with this proposal would be minimal. The agency would deplete existing inventories of forms and supplies that require a name change and would replace signage and other items on their normal replacement cycle.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This bill would take effect immediately.

VOTING:

S3483 HUNTLEY Same as [A 7566](#) Rivera P

[04/06/09](#) S3483 Senate Vote Aye: 61 Nay: 0

04/06/09 S3483 Senate Vote Aye: 61 Nay: 0

Aye Adams	Aye Addabbo	Aye Alesi	Aye Aubertine
Aye Bonacic	Aye Breslin	Aye DeFrancisco	Aye Diaz
Aye Dilan	Aye Duane	Aye Espada	Aye Farley
Aye Flanagan	Aye Foley	Aye Fuschillo	Aye Golden
Aye Griffo	Aye Hannon	Aye Hassell-Thompson	Aye Huntley
Aye Johnson C	Aye Johnson O	Aye Klein	Aye Krueger
Aye Kruger	Aye Lanza	Aye Larkin	Aye LaValle
Aye Leibell	Aye Libous	Aye Little	Aye Marcellino
Aye Maziarz	Aye McDonald	Aye Monserrate	Aye Montgomery
Aye Morahan	Aye Nozzolio	Aye Onorato	Aye Oppenheimer
Exc Padavan	Aye Parker	Aye Perkins	Aye Ranzenhofer
Aye Robach	Aye Saland	Aye Sampson	Aye Savino
Aye Schneiderman	Aye Serrano	Aye Seward	Aye Skelos
Aye Smith	Aye Squadron	Aye Stachowski	Aye Stavisky
Aye Stewart-Cousins	Aye Thompson	Aye Valesky	Aye Volker
Aye Winner	Aye Young		