

ECLER 03/11/14 4:10:55

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY LEGISLATORS MILLER-WILLIAMS & GRANT**

**RE: Supporting Legislation to Strengthen Staff Qualifications for Caseworkers and Supervisors in Child Protective Services**

WHEREAS, reforms within Erie County Child Protective Services are ongoing and meaningful, and together with reforms currently under consideration before the NYS Legislature, aim to strengthen CPS, and promise hope for the future for every child in Erie County; and

WHEREAS, Senate (S.6343)/Assembly (A.8429), upon enactment would require future CPS caseworkers and supervisors to have a higher level of education, "expertise and relevant background," and experience in order to meet staff qualification requirements, and the bill does not affect the current CPS workforce; and

WHEREAS, modernizing current State law concerning staff qualifications for CPS caseworkers and supervisors offer a CPS workforce with a real-world mindset, higher education and more experience in substance abuse/chemical dependency, the criminal justice system, psychology and severe mental illness, and can result in better outcomes when child abuse is suspected and investigated, and in the developing of a plan of action when a child is determined to be abused and/or maltreated; and

WHEREAS, receiving formal training to better understand, recognize and react to significant and severe mental illness, domestic violence, long-term poverty, and the other sociological and psychological matters that frequently surround cases involving child abuse are crucial to reforming and modernizing Child Protective Services; and

WHEREAS, having witnessed heart-wrenching tragedy in our community provides the Erie County Legislature a strong and affected voice in requesting passage of this legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Legislative Body goes on record in support of Senate Bill S.6343, and Assembly Bill A.8429: "An act to amend the social services law, in relation to staff qualifications for non-supervisory and supervisory child protective services workers," as stated in the legislation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Legislature declares that this legislation offers an additional measure of reform to CPS, is prudent, meaningful and good public policy, and together with other legislation also under consideration in Albany, will help CPS significantly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall forward certified copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New York, the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo; the Coalition Co-Majority Leaders of the New York State Senate, the Honorable Dean G. Skelos and the Honorable Jeff Klein; the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, the Honorable Sheldon Silver; the Democratic Conference Leader of the New York State Senate, the Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins; the Erie County Executive, the Honorable Mark C. Poloncarz; the WNY Delegation to the New York State Legislature; and the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.

Intro. 5-7  
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**S06343 Summary:**

BILL NO S06343  
 SAME AS SAME AS UNI.  
 SPONSOR KENNEDY  
 COSPNSR BRESLIN, DILAN, ESPAILLAT  
 MLTSPNSR  
 Amd S421, Soc Serv L

Relates to staff qualifications for supervisory and non-supervisory child protective services workers.

**S06343 Actions:**

BILL NO S06343  
 01/15/2014 REFERRED TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**S06343 Votes:**

*There are no votes for this bill in this legislative session.*

**S06343 Text:**

## S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

S. 6343

A. 8429

## S E N A T E - A S S E M B L Y

January 15, 2014

IN SENATE -- Introduced by Sen. KENNEDY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and Families

IN ASSEMBLY -- Introduced by M. of A. PEOPLES-STOKES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to staff qualifications for non-supervisory and supervisory child protective services workers

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision 4 of section 421 of  
 2 the social services law, paragraph (a) as amended and paragraph (b) as  
 3 added by chapter 525 of the laws of 2006, are amended to read as  
 4 follows:

5 (a) after consultation with the local child protective services,

Intro. 5-7  
 Page 2 of 5

6 promulgate regulations relating to staff qualifications for non-supervi-  
 7 sory child protective services workers, prescribing [any] AT LEAST A  
 8 baccalaureate or equivalent college degree IN SOCIAL WORK, PSYCHOLOGY,  
 9 COUNSELING and/or relevant [human service] experience IN LAW ENFORCE-  
 10 MENT, COUNSELING OR WORK WITH MENTAL HEALTH OR COGNITIVELY IMPAIRED  
 11 PERSONS AND CHILDREN as requirements. Such requirements shall not apply  
 12 to persons currently employed by such child protective services who were  
 13 hired before [January first, nineteen hundred eighty-six] THE EFFECTIVE  
 14 DATE OF THE CHAPTER OF THE LAWS OF TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN THAT AMENDED  
 15 THIS PARAGRAPH.

16 (b) after consultation with the local child protective services,  
 17 promulgate regulations relating to staff qualifications for those  
 18 assigned to be supervisors of child protective services[, prescribing  
 19 any baccalaureate or equivalent college degree and/or relevant human  
 20 services experience as requirements]. Provided, however, that such regu-  
 21 lations shall at a minimum provide that those assigned to be supervisors  
 22 of child protective services have [either a baccalaureate] AT LEAST A  
 23 MASTER'S degree [or three] IN SOCIAL WORK, PSYCHOLOGY, COUNSELING AND/OR

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
 [ ] is old law to be omitted.

S. 6343

2

LBD13160-07-4

A. 8429

1 TEN years of relevant work experience in [a human services field] LAW  
 2 ENFORCEMENT, COUNSELING OR WORK WITH MENTAL HEALTH OR COGNITIVELY  
 3 IMPAIRED PERSONS AND CHILDREN. Such requirements shall not apply to  
 4 persons currently assigned to be a child protective services supervisor  
 5 who were hired before [December first, two thousand six] THE EFFECTIVE  
 6 DATE OF THE CHAPTER OF THE LAWS OF TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN THAT AMENDED  
 7 THIS PARAGRAPH.

8 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

**A08429 Summary:**

BILL NO A08429  
 SAME AS SAME AS UNI.  
 SPONSOR Peoples-Stokes  
 COSPNSR  
 MLTSPNSR  
 Amd S421, Soc Serv L

Relates to staff qualifications for supervisory and non-supervisory child protective services workers.

**A08429 Actions:**

BILL NO A08429  
 01/15/2014 referred to children and families

**A08429 Votes:**

*There are no votes for this bill in this legislative session.*

**A08429 Text:**

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S. 6343

A. 8429

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