



# 2018 New York State YMCA

## Youth And Government

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 5

Bill #: AL-35

1 **Sponsors:** Victoria Cordova-Morote, Crystal Santiago, Aracely Perolta, Marleen  
2 Halepota

### 3 **An Act To**

4 Amend § 466-a of the New York State Social Service Law to mandate mental health  
5 screenings prior to individuals leaving the foster care system.  
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7  
8 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:***  
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### 10 **Purpose**

11 To mandate foster youth mental screenings and proper mental care if needed.

### 12 **Summary of Provisions**

#### 13 **Section 1: Definitions**

14 **Foster Care:** a system in which a minor has been placed into a ward, group home,  
15 or private home of a state-certified caregiver, referred to as a "foster parent". The  
16 placement of the child is normally arranged through the government or a social  
17 service agency.

18 **Mental Health Screening:** a series of questions about lifestyle, eating and drinking  
19 habits and mental wellness designed to check for potential mood or anxiety  
20 disorders, including depression substance abuse and post-traumatic stress.

#### 21 **Section 2:**

22 § 466-a. Agreements. The department shall enter into memorandums of  
23 understanding with the office of mental health and the office of mental retardation  
24 and developmental disabilities which shall facilitate access by those offices to child  
25 care facilities providing transitional care to young adults as may be necessary for  
26 those offices to meet their responsibilities for monitoring the care of young adults.  
27 **Office administration will provide children with mental health screenings and**  
28 **developmentally appropriate, medically necessary mental health screenings. If the**  
29 **office fails to administer said screenings, they will pay a fee and the cost of any**  
30 **remaining mental health care a child may need.**

### 31 **Justification**

32 Many New York State youth are placed in foster facilities for traumatizing reasons.  
33 These include things like physical or sexual abuse, abandonment, and even  
34 incarceration. The trauma caused by these issues can leave children mentally  
35 unstable. However, upon implementation of this bill, we will be able to ensure that  
36 all foster children are examined and given the proper care needed to eventually  
37 become upstanding members of society.

### 38 **Fiscal Implications**

39 This bill has no fiscal implications at this time since they are covered by Medicaid.  
40 Therefore, no new doctors will need to be employed and/or compensated. However,  
41 children who were in New York foster care but now live in another state will need to  
42 check with their state's Medicaid program to determine what health insurance  
43 programs are available.

### 44 **Effective Date**

45 This bill will go into effect one year after passage.