

Abuse Notification System Allows providers of facilities or programs licensed or certified by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities to request additional background information of any substantiated report of abuse or serious neglect that the Office has on file of a prospective employee or volunteer. (A.8330 / S.5796)

Mandatory Reporting of Crimes Current law requires certain allegations of crimes be reported no later than three working days at state mental hygiene facilities. This bill would require the district attorney or appropriate law enforcement officials to be contacted immediately but no later than twenty-four hours if it appears a situation has occurred where conduct caused physical injury or unauthorized sexual contact, if it appears the welfare of an individual has been endangered, or a felony crime was committed. (A.8325 / S.5795)

Standardize Training for OPWDD Facilities Requires the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to standardize the training provided to personnel who care for individuals with developmental disabilities at state mental hygiene facilities. Under the bill, all providers operated or licensed by the state would be required to comply with the training curriculum developed by OPWDD that establishes standards for the protection of people with developmental disabilities from abuse, neglect and maltreatment. (A.8323/ S.5794)

Investigations of OPWDD Employees Ensures that investigations into employee misconduct continue when an employee under investigation resigns and that notices of this policy would be provided to all current and new employees of OPWDD. (A.8324/ S.5793)

Overtime Limit on OPWDD Employees Establishes a sixty hour cap on the number of hours OPWDD employees are required to work to ensure patient safety and prevent staff fatigue. (A.8127-A/ S.5716-A)

DDSO Ombudsman Enhanced Strengthens the status of the Developmental Disability Service Office (DDSO) ombudsman as an independent advocate by making he or she an employee of the Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. Currently, the ombudsman is an employee of OPWDD (A.8322/ S.5792)

Increased Inspections of OPWDD Facilities Requires OPWDD to make at least three unannounced visits per year at each facility and program. The bill also would authorize any DDSO Board of Visitor member or any other individual approved by the commissioner of OPWDD to attend an inspection as an independent monitor (A.6665-A/ S.5791).