

## *Home Care*

### **New Advanced Home Health Aides Will Be Able to Give Meds in New York**

**H**ome health aides who receive additional training will be able to administer routine and prefilled medications to patients in New York state, under a new law signed by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D).

The bill (A. 10707), signed Nov. 28, will create a new job category called advanced home health aide to make it easier for seniors, the disabled and other patients to receive care in their homes, assisted living facilities or hospice programs.

The aides will be required to work under the supervision of a licensed professional nurse and must receive additional training.

The law is designed to fill a gap in care that limits the practitioners who can provide certain types of care, according to MaryEllen Elia, the state education commissioner.

**Regulations Needed.** The new law is expected to take effect in mid-2018 after the state Department of Health and the state Education Department issue regulations

on the specific tasks that can be performed and the type of training required.

The bill was backed by AARP and the state's largest union of health-care workers, 1199SEIU United Health-care Workers East.

The Home Care Association of New York State supports the overall aim of the new law. "However, the implementation phase still requires additional work," Roger Noyes, a spokesman for the group, told Bloomberg BNA.

"Among many issues still unaddressed are the need for funds to train and compensate advanced home health aides under the state Medicaid program and other payers, as well as the need to address the cost of new oversight duties for home care agencies," he said. "These cost factors are all the more important in the context of a new statewide minimum wage hike set to go into effect on Dec. 31."

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*The bill is at <http://src.bna.com/kwd>.*