

2759--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

February 1, 2011

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Introduced by Sen. HASSELL-THOMPSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- recommended to the Committee on Finance in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT creating a temporary state commission to examine the degree and effect of segregation in primary and secondary schools; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1     Section 1. There is established within the department of education a  
2     temporary state commission to examine and review the degree of segre-  
3     gation in primary and secondary schools; here and after referred to as  
4     the commission. The commission shall have the following functions,  
5     powers and duties:  
6     a. To appoint an executive director who shall act in accordance with  
7     the policies of the commission. The commission may delegate authority to  
8     the executive director to act in the name of the commission between  
9     meetings of the commission provided such delegation is in writing and  
10    the specific powers to be delegated are enumerated;  
11    b. To appoint such other staff as are necessary to carry out its  
12    duties under this section;  
13    c. To conduct investigations in connection with: the level of segre-  
14    gation in New York's primary and secondary schools; any correlation  
15    between segregation and inadequate school funding; and the long-term  
16    economic impact of inadequate educational resources on segregated  
17    students and society;  
18    d. To make an annual report to the governor and the legislature not  
19    later than July first of each year which shall include its recommenda-  
20    tions. The commission shall make such further interim reports to the  
21    governor, or to the governor and legislature, as it shall deem advis-

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

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1 able, or as shall be required to do by the governor, the temporary pres-  
2 ident of the senate or the speaker of the assembly;

3 e. To conduct any investigation authorized by this section at any  
4 place within the state; and to maintain offices, hold meetings and func-  
5 tion at any place within the state as it may deem necessary;

6 f. To conduct private and public hearings and to designate one or more  
7 members of the commission or of its staff to preside over any such hear-  
8 ings; and

9 g. To administer oaths or affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel  
10 their attendance, examine them under oath or affirmation and require the  
11 production of any books, records, documents or other evidence it may  
12 deem relevant or material to an investigation.

13 S 2. The commission shall consist of ten members, to be known as  
14 commissioners to be appointed as follows: Two members of the commission  
15 shall be appointed by the governor, two by the temporary president of  
16 the senate, two by the minority leader of the senate, two by the speaker  
17 of the assembly and two by the minority leader of the assembly, each to  
18 serve a three year term. No more than five members shall belong to the  
19 same political party. No member or employee of the commission shall hold  
20 any other public office or public employment and no member shall be  
21 employed as a lobbyist. The governor shall designate the chairperson of  
22 the commission from among the members thereof, who shall serve as chair-  
23 person at the pleasure of the governor. The chairperson or any six  
24 members of the commission may call a meeting. Any vacancy occurring on  
25 the commission shall be filled within 60 days of its occurrence in the  
26 same manner as the original appointment. A vacancy in the commission  
27 shall not impair the right of the remaining members to exercise all the  
28 powers of the commission. A person appointed to fill a vacancy shall be  
29 appointed for the unexpired term of the member he or she succeeds. Six  
30 members of the commission shall constitute a quorum and the commission  
31 shall have power to act by majority vote of the total number of members  
32 of the commission without vacancy. Members of the commission may be  
33 removed by the governor for substantial neglect of duty, gross miscon-  
34 duct in office, inability to discharge the powers or duties of office or  
35 violation of this section, after written notice and opportunity for a  
36 reply.

37 S 3. The members of the commission shall not receive compensation but  
38 shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance  
39 of their official duties.

40 S 4. The commission may request and shall receive from every depart-  
41 ment, division, board, bureau, commission or other agency of the state,  
42 or of any political subdivision thereof, cooperation and assistance in  
43 the performance of its duties.

44 S 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012 and shall expire March  
45 31, 2015, when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed  
46 repealed.