

2135--B

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 18, 2011

---

Introduced by Sens. BONACIC, LANZA, McDONALD, PARKER, RIVERA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading -- recommitted to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing the task force on adults with autism; 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. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that autism is  
2     a lifelong disability, yet much of the focus on autism spectrum disor-  
3     ders relates to education and development, and neglects concerns that  
4     may arise later in a person's life. The legislature also finds that  
5     adults with autism may face significant challenges in various aspects of  
6     their lives, including such areas as job placement, housing and long-  
7     term care. Further, just as the autism spectrum covers a wide range of  
8     functional abilities, so does the need for services and supports for  
9     adults with autism. Consequently, the legislature finds that there is a  
10    pressing need for policymakers and advocates in the state to formulate  
11    achievable goals for state government to meet in order to better serve  
12    the community of adults with autism spectrum disorders. To this end, it  
13    is in the public interest to establish a task force on adults with  
14    autism to develop a comprehensive plan for meeting the various needs of  
15    adults with autism spectrum disorders living in New York.

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

LBD01908-04-2

1 S 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 13.41  
2 to read as follows:

3 S 13.41 TASK FORCE ON ADULTS WITH AUTISM.

4 (A) THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED THE TASK FORCE ON ADULTS WITH AUTISM  
5 IN THE OFFICE. THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE TO STUDY, EVALUATE  
6 AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO SPECIFIC ACTIONABLE MEASURES TO  
7 SUPPORT AND MEET THE NEEDS OF ADULTS WITH AUTISM WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF  
8 THE STATE, INCLUDING SUCH NEEDS AS VOCATIONAL, RESIDENTIAL AND SOCIAL  
9 NEEDS. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL COMPRISE THE BASIS  
10 FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR MEETING THE NEEDS OF ADULTS WITH AUTISM,  
11 AND SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE PURSUANT TO  
12 SUBDIVISION (F) OF THIS SECTION.

13 (B) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSIST OF NINE MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

14 (1) THE COMMISSIONER, THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, THE COMMISSIONER OF  
15 EDUCATION, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING  
16 EDUCATION SERVICES WITHIN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE COMMISSIONER  
17 OF LABOR; AND

18 (2) FOUR MEMBERS WITH DEMONSTRATED EXPERTISE IN ISSUES RELATING TO THE  
19 WORK OF THE TASK FORCE; WITH TWO SUCH MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR,  
20 ONE SUCH MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND  
21 ONE SUCH MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, NO LATER THAN  
22 THE THIRTIETH DAY AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

23 VACANCIES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE FILLED IN THE  
24 SAME MANNER PROVIDED FOR BY THE ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS.

25 (C) THE COMMISSIONER OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE SHALL SERVE AS  
26 CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE. THE TASK FORCE SHALL ORGANIZE AS SOON AS  
27 PRACTICABLE FOLLOWING THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS AND SHALL SELECT A  
28 VICE-CHAIRPERSON FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS. THE CHAIRPERSON SHALL APPOINT A  
29 SECRETARY WHO NEED NOT BE A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE.

30 (D) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR  
31 THEIR SERVICES, BUT SHALL BE ALLOWED THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES  
32 INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

33 (E) TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE, THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE ENTITLED  
34 TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE, AND SHALL UTILIZE AND BE PROVIDED WITH SUCH  
35 FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND DATA OF ANY COURT, DEPARTMENT, DIVISION,  
36 BOARD, BUREAU, COMMISSION OR AGENCY OF THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDI-  
37 VISION THEREOF AS IT MAY REASONABLY REQUEST TO PROPERLY CARRY OUT ITS  
38 POWERS AND DUTIES.

39 (F) THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
40 THE GOVERNOR, THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF  
41 THE ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE APRIL FIRST, TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN.

42 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be  
43 deemed repealed 2 years after such effective date.