S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

2095

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 10, 2013

Introduced by Sen. GOLDEN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to establish a temporary state commission to study child abuse prevention and make recommendations for the implementation of child abuse prevention programs across the state; 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:

Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby acknowledges that child abuse is a continuing societal problem in the state affecting at least 80,000 children each year. In recent years, there has been research on the long-term effects of child abuse on the individual as well as society. The vast majority of research has demonstrated that the consequences of child abuse are grave, damaging and often spill over into a person's adult life. Adverse effects have been identified in maltreated children's physical, cognitive, emotional and social development.

Furthermore, the legislature finds that the failure to address child abuse through preventive measures not only harms a million children each year in this country, it imposes a tremendous cost to society. Like most states, New York spends a considerable amount of fiscal and human resources to treat the numerous consequences of child abuse and maltreatment. The failure to invest in prevention results in a significantly greater amount of resources needed to treat the outcomes.

S 2. A temporary state commission, to be known as the "commission of child abuse prevention", is hereby established to examine, evaluate and make recommendations concerning child abuse prevention efforts in the state. The commission shall consider the need for additional legislation as well as a stable source of funding for child abuse prevention programs. Specific issues to be addressed by the commission shall

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

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include home visitation programs and screening for families at risk of child maltreatment.

S 3. The commission shall consist of thirteen members, to be appointed as follows: three members to be appointed by the governor; three members to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; three members to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; two members to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and two members to be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. The members shall have demonstrated expertise in and experience with the field of child abuse prevention. A chairperson and vice-chairperson of such commission shall be elected by the majority of its members, all members being present.

S 4. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties hereunder.

S 5. The commission may employ and at pleasure remove such personnel as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions. Such commission may meet and hold public and/or private hearings within or without the state, and shall have all the powers of a legislative committee pursuant to the legislative law.

S 6. For the accomplishment of its purposes, the commission shall be authorized and empowered to undertake any studies, inquiries, surveys or analyses it may deem relevant in cooperation with or by agreement with any other public or private agency.

S 7. The commission shall make a report of its findings, including any recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary and appropriate, to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than one year after the effective date of this act.

S 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed 1 year after such effective date.