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I N   S E N A T E

April 9, 2014

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Introduced by Sens. AVELLA, VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed,  
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and  
Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to the creation of  
the early learning council

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

1     Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new article  
2     10-E to read as follows:

3                                   ARTICLE 10-E

4                                   EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL

5     SECTION 484-A. CREATION AND PURPOSE.

6             484-B. COMPOSITION.

7             484-C. POWERS AND DUTIES.

8             484-D. TERM.

9             484-E. SHARING OF INFORMATION.

10     S 484-A. CREATION AND PURPOSE. THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AN EARLY  
11     LEARNING COUNCIL. THE PURPOSE OF THE EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL IS TO SECURE  
12     SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN EARLY LEARNING FOR CHILDREN  
13     UP TO THE AGE OF FIVE BY FOCUSING ON PRACTICES THAT ARE EDUCATIONALLY,  
14     ECONOMICALLY, AND SCIENTIFICALLY SOUND.

15     S 484-B. COMPOSITION. THE EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF  
16     MEMBERS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE DIRECTORS OF THE BUDGET, THE  
17     COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, THE COMMIS-  
18     SIONER OF THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE  
19     OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE EMPIRE  
20     STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, OR THEIR RESPECTIVE DESIGNEES; AT LEAST  
21     FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY APPOINTED BY THE GOVER-  
22     NOR, AND AT LEAST TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
23     APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER AND THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,  
24     RESPECTIVELY. THE COUNCIL MAY ORGANIZE SUBCOMMITTEES TO REVIEW SPECIFIC  
25     FUNDING AND POLICY PRIORITIES.

26     S 484-C. POWERS AND DUTIES. THE EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL WILL MEET AT  
27     LEAST TWICE A YEAR AND WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING POWERS AND DUTIES:

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

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1 1. DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE BUSINESS AND CIVIC  
2 LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN EARLY LEARNING PLANNING AND ADVOCACY AT THE  
3 STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL;

4 2. CONSULTING WITH PERSONS WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF EARLY  
5 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ON FUNDING AND POLICY PRIORITIES;

6 3. INCREASING BUSINESS, CIVIC AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE  
7 OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE DISTRIB-  
8 UTION OF LITERATURE THROUGH MAIL OR ONLINE, ORGANIZING OF MEETINGS AND  
9 EVENTS AND PROMOTING THE COST BENEFITS OF INVESTMENTS IN LEARNING; AND,

10 4. DEVELOPING AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE  
11 CONTAINING INFORMATION ON ALL ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE PREVIOUS YEAR AS  
12 WELL AS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS AND  
13 POLICIES.

14 S 484-D. TERM. APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL SHALL  
15 SERVE FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS AND CONTINUE TO SERVE UNTIL THEIR  
16 SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED. MEMBERS SERVING AS A RESULT OF THEIR POSITION  
17 WITH STATE GOVERNMENT SHALL SERVE SO LONG AS THEY REMAIN IN SUCH CAPACI-  
18 TY. ANY VACANCIES SHALL BE FILLED PURSUANT TO SECTION FOUR HUNDRED  
19 EIGHTY-FOUR-B OF THIS ARTICLE. MEMBERS SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION  
20 EXCEPT FOR PAYMENT OF NECESSARY AND ACTUAL EXPENSES INCURRED IN ATTEND-  
21 ING MEETINGS AND IN PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS  
22 MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

23 S 484-E. SHARING OF INFORMATION. THE EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL MAY  
24 REQUEST, AND SHALL RECEIVE, INFORMATION FROM ANY STATE OR LOCAL GOVERN-  
25 MENTAL AGENCY NECESSARY TO COMPLETE ITS DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE,  
26 SO LONG AS SUCH INFORMATION IS NON-IDENTIFYING AND NOT OTHERWISE  
27 PROTECTED BY LAW.

28 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that the first  
29 annual report required pursuant to section 484-c of the social services  
30 law as added by section one of this act shall be due September 1, 2015  
31 and every September 1 thereafter.