

STATE OF NEW YORK

2761

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 25, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. FERNANDEZ -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to establish a Latina suicide prevention task force; and provides
for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Latina suicide prevention task force. (a) There is hereby
2 created the Latina suicide prevention task force to examine, evaluate
3 and determine how to improve mental health and suicide prevention for
4 our Latina New York residents, consisting of seven members, each to
5 serve until two years after the effective date of this act.

6 (b)(1) Such members shall be appointed as follows: one member shall be
7 appointed by the governor; one member shall be appointed by the tempo-
8 rary president of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the
9 minority leader of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the
10 speaker of the assembly; one member shall be appointed by the minority
11 leader of the assembly; and two members shall be appointed by the
12 commissioner of health. Appointments shall be made within sixty days of
13 the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the task force shall be
14 filled in the same manner provided for original appointments.

15 (2) All appointees shall have expertise in fields or disciplines
16 related to mental health and knowledge related to the Latina community.
17 All appointments shall be coordinated to ensure geographic represen-
18 tation from the entire state.

19 (3) The task force shall be chaired by the governor's appointee. The
20 task force shall elect a vice-chair and other necessary officers from
21 among all appointed members.

22 (4) A majority of the members of the task force in office shall
23 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business or the exercise of
24 any power or function of the task force. An act, determination or deci-
25 sion of the majority of the members present during the presence of a

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

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1 quorum shall be held to be the act, determination, or decision of the
2 task force.

3 (5) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the
4 chair. Meetings may be held via teleconference. Special meetings may be
5 called by the chair at the request of a majority of the members of the
6 task force.

7 (6) Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their
8 services but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in
9 the performance of their duties in the work of the task force.

10 (c) The task force shall:

11 (1) study current mental health practices and suicide prevention
12 efforts;

13 (2) recommend mental health practices and suicide prevention efforts
14 to increase effectiveness across the state; and

15 (3) determine potential reasons for the high number of Latina
16 suicides.

17 (d) The task force may establish such advisory committees as it deems
18 appropriate on matters relating to the task force's functions, powers
19 and duties. Such committees shall be chaired by a task force member, but
20 may be composed of task force members as well as other individuals
21 selected by the task force to provide expertise of interest specific to
22 the charge of such committees.

23 (e) The task force may, as it deems appropriate, request that studies,
24 surveys, or analyses relating to the task force's powers and duties be
25 performed by any state department, commission, agency or public authori-
26 ty. All state departments, commissions, agencies or public authorities
27 shall provide information and advice in a timely manner and otherwise
28 assist the task force with its work.

29 (f) The task force shall submit a request for any appropriation as
30 shall be necessary to enable the task force to perform its functions and
31 duties to the governor, director of the division of budget, and chair-
32 persons of the senate finance committee and the assembly ways and means
33 committee.

34 (g) The task force may hold public hearings, take testimony and make
35 investigations at such places as it deems necessary.

36 (h) The task force shall make a preliminary report to the governor and
37 the legislature of its findings, conclusions, recommendations and activ-
38 ities already undertaken by the task force, not later than thirteen
39 months after the effective date of this act, and a final report of its
40 findings, conclusions, recommendations and activities already undertaken
41 by the task force, not later than twenty-two months after the effective
42 date of this act and shall submit with its reports legislative proposals
43 as it deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

44 § 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
45 have become a law and shall expire 2 years after such effective date
46 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.