STATE OF NEW YORK

10269

IN ASSEMBLY

February 20, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. SEAWRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT in relation to establishing the interagency council on kinship care

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

Section 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the office of the aging is directed and authorized to establish the interagency council on kinship care to investigate, evaluate and make recommendations concerning the unique issues of kinship caregivers.

§ 2. (a) Such council shall include, but not be limited to, representatives from the office of children and family services, the department of health, the office of temporary and disability services, the office of court administration, the office of mental health, the department of education, the office of addiction services and supports, the New York state homes and community renewal and any not-for-profit groups deemed necessary, including but not limited to, the New York state caregiver and respite coalition.

(b) The members of the council shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties under this act. The council may employ and at pleasure remove such personnel as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions and fix their compensation within the amounts made available by appropriation therefor.

§ 3. For the accomplishment of its purposes, the council 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. The council is authorized and empowered to undertake any studies, inquiries, surveys or analyses it may deem relevant through its own personnel or in cooperation with or by agreement with any other public or private agency.

§ 4. The council shall make recommendations and a report of its findings. The council shall submit such recommendations and report, including any recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary

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

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and appropriate, to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly, and made public online on the governor's website no later than December first, two thousand twenty-eight.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.