

3970

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 7, 2009

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

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the membership of the state camp safety advisory council; and to direct the commissioner of health to conduct a study of youth camp safety

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

1 Section 1. Section 1390 of the public health law, as amended by chap-
2 ter 337 of the laws of 1980, is amended to read as follows:
3 S 1390. Establishment of state camp safety advisory council. The
4 commissioner [of health] shall establish within the [state] department
5 [of health] a state camp safety advisory council to advise and consult
6 on policy matters relating to youth camp safety. The council shall
7 consist of [nine] TWELVE members to be appointed by the governor with
8 the advice and consent of the senate. Three members of the council shall
9 be representatives of youth camps operated in New York for profit, three
10 members of the council shall be representatives of youth camps operated
11 in New York under philanthropic, non-profit or charitable auspices, one
12 member of the council shall be a representative of youth camp consumer
13 interests, [one] FOUR MEMBERS shall be [a representative] REPRESENTEN-
14 TATIVES of children's interests who [does] DO not operate [a] children's
15 [camp] CAMPS, and one MEMBER shall be a representative of summer day
16 camps and traveling summer day camps operated by municipal corporations
17 and other entities subject to article thirteen-D of this chapter. The
18 council shall elect from among its members a chairman. On or before
19 January first, nineteen hundred seventy-four, the governor shall appoint
20 two youth camp representative members for a term of two years, two youth
21 camp representative members for a term of four years and two youth camp
22 representative members for a term of six years. Biennially thereafter
23 the youth camp representative members shall be appointed to [said] SUCH
24 council in like manner to succeed those whose terms expire, to serve for

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

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1 terms of six years each and until their successors are appointed. The
2 member representative of youth camp consumer interests shall also serve
3 for a term of six years and until a successor is appointed. On or before
4 January first, nineteen hundred eighty-one, the governor shall appoint
5 [the] ONE representative of children's interests for a term of four
6 years and the representative of summer day camps and traveling summer
7 day camps operated by municipal corporations and other entities subject
8 to article thirteen-D of this chapter for a term of two years. ON OR
9 BEFORE JULY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND TEN, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THREE
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF CHILDREN'S INTERESTS FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS. There-
11 after, each succeeding representative of children's interests and each
12 succeeding representative of [said] SUCH summer day camps and traveling
13 summer day camps shall serve terms of six years each and until their
14 successors are appointed. Vacancies shall be filled by the governor for
15 the unexpired portion of the term. [Said] ALL EXPIRED TERMS AND VACAN-
16 CIES SHALL BE FILLED WITHIN SIXTY DAYS OF THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM OR
17 OCCURRENCE OF THE VACANCY. SUCH council shall meet at least twice a
18 year, and more often if necessary, on the call of the chairman or on the
19 call of the commissioner [of health]. The members of the council shall
20 receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable
21 traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of their offi-
22 cial duties.

23 S 2. a. The commissioner of health shall conduct a study of the feasi-
24 bility of improving the statutes, rules and regulations governing and
25 the practices utilized by youth camps. The commissioner shall include,
26 at a minimum, the following:

27 (1) the feasibility of establishing a uniform, standardized training
28 and testing system for youth camp counselors including the establishment
29 of minimum standards of proficiency in first aid and water safety. Such
30 study shall review the feasibility of developing counselor orientation
31 materials and programs for use prior to the arrival of children partic-
32 ipating in the camp. Such study shall also review the required
33 counselor/camper ratio for cardio pulmonary resuscitation training;

34 (2) the feasibility of providing periodic mandated workshops for local
35 health inspectors responsible for the inspection of youth camp health
36 and safety regulations, as well as the monitoring of local streams,
37 lakes, rivers and other bodies of water to warn the public and local
38 camps of hazardous water conditions; and

39 (3) the feasibility of providing periodic mandated workshops for youth
40 camp directors.

41 In studying the feasibility of establishing such workshops and train-
42 ing, the commissioner of health shall estimate the costs of these
43 programs and possible fees that could be structured to support them.

44 b. The commissioner of health shall submit a report of his or her
45 findings and recommendations, derived from the study conducted pursuant
46 to this section, to the governor and the legislature within one year of
47 the effective date of this act.

48 S 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
49 have become a law; provided, however, that the governor is authorized
50 and directed to appoint members to the state camp safety advisory coun-
51 cil on or before such effective date to fill any expired terms, vacan-
52 cies or additional member positions which shall exist on such date.