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

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:

Section 1. Section 1390 of the public health law, as amended by chapter 337 of the laws of 1980, is amended to read as follows:

S 1390. Establishment of state camp safety advisory council. The commissioner [of health] shall establish within the [state] department [of health] a state camp safety advisory council to advise and consult on policy matters relating to youth camp safety. The council shall consist of [nine] TWELVE members to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. Three members of the council shall be representatives of youth camps operated in New York for profit, three members of the council shall be representatives of youth camps operated in New York under philanthropic, non-profit or charitable auspices, one member of the council shall be a representative of youth camp consumer interests, [one] FOUR MEMBERS shall be [a representative] REPRESENTATIVES of children's interests who [does] DO not operate [a] children's [camp] CAMPS, and one MEMBER shall be a representative of summer day camps and traveling summer day camps operated by municipal corporations and other entities subject to article thirteen-D of this chapter. The council shall elect from among its members a chairman. On or before January first, nineteen hundred seventy-four, the governor shall appoint two youth camp representative members for a term of two years, two youth camp representative members for a term of four years and two youth camp representative members for a term of six years. Biennially thereafter the youth camp representative members shall be appointed to [said] SUCH 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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terms of six years each and until their successors are appointed. The member representative of youth camp consumer interests shall also serve for a term of six years and until a successor is appointed. On or before January first, nineteen hundred eighty-one, the governor shall appoint [the] ONE representative of children's interests for a term of four years and the representative of summer day camps and traveling summer day camps operated by municipal corporations and other entities subject to article thirteen-D of this chapter for a term of two years. ON OR BEFORE JULY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND TEN, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF CHILDREN'S INTERESTS FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS. Thereafter, each succeeding representative of children's interests and each succeeding representative of [said] SUCH summer day camps and traveling summer day camps shall serve terms of six years each and until their successors are appointed. Vacancies shall be filled by the governor for the unexpired portion of the term. [Said] ALL EXPIRED TERMS AND VACANCIES SHALL BE FILLED WITHIN SIXTY DAYS OF THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM OR OCCURRENCE OF THE VACANCY. SUCH council shall meet at least twice a year, and more often if necessary, on the call of the chairman or on the call of the commissioner [of health]. The members of the council shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

S 2. a. The commissioner of health shall conduct a study of the feasibility of improving the statutes, rules and regulations governing and the practices utilized by youth camps. The commissioner shall include, at a minimum, the following:

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

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

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

In studying the feasibility of establishing such workshops and training, the commissioner of health shall estimate the costs of these programs and possible fees that could be structured to support them.

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

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