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

S. 3233--A A. 5121--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

S E N A T E - A S S E M B L Y

February 14, 2011

IN SENATE -- Introduced by Sen. LAVALLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

IN ASSEMBLY -- Introduced by M. of A. THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT in relation to establishing a task force to study the feasibility of establishing a new college of the state university at the Southampton campus of Stony Brook University

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

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds that since 2006, the state has invested more than $78 million to acquire and establish a new campus as part of the state university at Southampton under the auspices of Stony Brook University. This investment includes the purchase of the campus, a new library, renovated dormitories and student center, a refurbished new fine arts building and theater, and other investments to the facilities and the physical plant.

The legislature further finds that it has made a commitment to maintain and expand opportunities for higher education at this campus. Higher education is the key to economic recovery and the investment at Southampton reflects the intent of the legislature that higher education is a priority.

The state university has identified certain education programs, including all residential facilities at the Southampton campus for closure as a means to achieve certain savings. The legislature opposes

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

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such closure. Therefore, the intent of this legislation is to establish a task force to study the feasibility of establishing a new college of the state university at Southampton as well as the feasibility of other uses of the campus.

S 2. (a) There is hereby created a task force to study the establishment of a new college of the state university at Southampton.

(1) Such task force shall consist of thirteen voting members to be appointed by the governor as follows: one shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the temporary president of the senate; one shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the senate, one shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the speaker of the assembly, one shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the assembly, one shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the town board of the town of Southampton, one shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the village board of the village of Southampton, one shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the tribal trustees of the Shinnecock Indian Nation, one shall be a resident of the town of Southampton, one shall be a member of a local business organization, one shall be a local environmental representative, one shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the chancellor of the state university, one shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the president of Stony Brook University, and one shall be a member of a local civic association.

(2) All members of the task force shall be appointed within 30 days of the effective date of this act. The chair and the vice chair of the task force shall be designated by the governor and shall be members of the task force. Members in general shall be selected for their expertise in higher education. Eight members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of organizing the task force and conducting the meetings thereof. Members of the task force shall serve without salary or other compensation. The task force shall meet not less than once a month at the existing campus at Southampton until a final report and recommendations are submitted in accordance with subdivision (d) of this section.

(b) Such task force shall serve to develop recommendations for the future use of the Southampton campus, including but not limited to the establishment of a new college of the state university at Southampton. All state agencies shall provide their expertise and, where possible, their resources to assist the task force in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities.

(c) Within six months after the appointment of the members of the task force, the task force shall hold a public hearing. Thereafter, the task force shall consider and incorporate the comments made at such hearing into preliminary recommendations. Such preliminary recommendations shall be published and made available to the public, and submitted to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly within nine months of the effective date of this act. Following the publishing and submission of such preliminary recommendations, the task force shall provide at least 30 days but not more than 45 days for public comment on the recommendations.

(d) The task force shall develop and submit a final report of recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on or before December 1, 2013.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.