

2135

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 18, 2011

Introduced by Sens. BONACIC, LANZA -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and
Developmental Disabilities

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing the
task force on adults with autism; and providing 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. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that autism is
2 a lifelong disability, yet much of the focus on autism spectrum disor-
3 ders relates to education and development, and neglects concerns that
4 may arise later in a person's life. The legislature also finds that
5 adults with autism may face significant challenges in various aspects of
6 their lives, including such areas as job placement, housing and long-
7 term care. Further, just as the autism spectrum covers a wide range of
8 functional abilities, so does the need for services and supports for
9 adults with autism. Consequently, the legislature finds that there is a
10 pressing need for policymakers and advocates in the state to formulate
11 achievable goals for state government to meet in order to better serve
12 the community of adults with autism spectrum disorders. To this end, it
13 is in the public interest to establish a task force on adults with
14 autism to develop a comprehensive plan for meeting the various needs of
15 adults with autism spectrum disorders living in New York.

16 S 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 13.41
17 to read as follows:

18 S 13.41 TASK FORCE ON ADULTS WITH AUTISM.

19 (A) THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED THE TASK FORCE ON ADULTS WITH AUTISM
20 IN THE OFFICE. THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE TO STUDY, EVALUATE
21 AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO SPECIFIC ACTIONABLE MEASURES TO
22 SUPPORT AND MEET THE NEEDS OF ADULTS WITH AUTISM WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF
23 THE STATE, INCLUDING SUCH NEEDS AS VOCATIONAL, RESIDENTIAL AND SOCIAL

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

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1 NEEDS. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL COMPRISE THE BASIS
2 FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR MEETING THE NEEDS OF ADULTS WITH AUTISM,
3 AND SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE PURSUANT TO
4 SUBDIVISION (F) OF THIS SECTION.

5 (B) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSIST OF NINE MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

6 (1) THE COMMISSIONER, THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, THE COMMISSIONER OF
7 EDUCATION, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL
8 SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WITHIN THE EDUCATION DEPART-
9 MENT AND THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR; AND

10 (2) FOUR MEMBERS WITH DEMONSTRATED EXPERTISE IN ISSUES RELATING TO THE
11 WORK OF THE TASK FORCE; WITH TWO SUCH MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR,
12 ONE SUCH MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND
13 ONE SUCH MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, NO LATER THAN
14 THE THIRTIETH DAY AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

15 VACANCIES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE FILLED IN THE
16 SAME MANNER PROVIDED FOR BY THE ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS.

17 (C) THE COMMISSIONER OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE SHALL SERVE AS
18 CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE. THE TASK FORCE SHALL ORGANIZE AS SOON AS
19 PRACTICABLE FOLLOWING THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS AND SHALL SELECT A
20 VICE-CHAIRPERSON FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS. THE CHAIRPERSON SHALL APPOINT A
21 SECRETARY WHO NEED NOT BE A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE.

22 (D) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR
23 THEIR SERVICES, BUT SHALL BE ALLOWED THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES
24 INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

25 (E) TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE, THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE ENTITLED
26 TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE, AND SHALL UTILIZE AND BE PROVIDED WITH SUCH
27 FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND DATA OF ANY COURT, DEPARTMENT, DIVISION,
28 BOARD, BUREAU, COMMISSION OR AGENCY OF THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDI-
29 VISION THEREOF AS IT MAY REASONABLY REQUEST TO PROPERLY CARRY OUT ITS
30 POWERS AND DUTIES.

31 (F) THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO
32 THE GOVERNOR, THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF
33 THE ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE APRIL FIRST, TWO THOUSAND TWELVE.

34 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be
35 deemed repealed 2 years after such effective date.