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

8863

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 25, 2014

Introduced by M. of A. SEPULVEDA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT in relation to establishing the New York Muslim American Advisory Council

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

Section 1. The Muslim American Advisory Council. The New York State Muslim American Advisory Council is hereby established. It will advise the legislature on ways to advance the role and civic participation of Muslim Americans in New York. Additionally, the Muslim American Advisory Council (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") shall recommend strategies to better integrate Muslims in New York socially, educationally, culturally and economically. The Council shall facilitate relationship-building in the Muslim community to achieve goals related to international commerce in Muslim countries/communities, and identify ways to more effectively disseminate information and outreach to Muslim Americans regarding state programs and services. The Council shall advise the legislature on appropriate policy developments, official directives, and other issues of significance impacting New York's Muslims. It will bring important faith-based issues based on factual findings to the legislature's attention and make recommendations to address those issues. It will also strengthen communication between the state and Muslim leadership and the general community.

S 2. The Council shall consist of ten members, as follows:

a. five members shall be representatives of community-based/faith-based organizations that advise or assist Muslim American communities.

b. one member shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate.

c. one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

d. one member shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly.

e. one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly.

f. one remaining member shall be appointed by the governor.

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

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S 3. Each member of the Council shall serve for a term of four years or until his or her successor is appointed. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve the remainder of the term of the member he or she is appointed to succeed.

S 4. The members of the Council shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties hereunder.

S 5. The Council shall select a chair and a secretary from among the members.

S 6. The Council shall meet as frequently as necessary, but not less than four times per year. Such meetings shall be held at such locations as the Council may determine. All such meetings shall be subject to the open meetings law.

S 7. Each member of the Council shall be entitled to designate in writing a representative to attend meetings in his or her place and to vote or otherwise act on his or her behalf in his or her absence.

S 8. The Council will present strategies to the legislature to better integrate Muslims in New York socially, educationally, culturally and economically in writing in the form of an annual report approximately sixteen months from the establishment of the Council and annually thereafter.

S 9. The report shall consist of factual findings, progress analyses, and recommendations regarding the implementation of state programs and services as it affects Muslim Americans.

S 10. This act shall take effect immediately.