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

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I N A S S E M B L Y

February 28, 2014

Introduced by M. of A. LUPARDO, SILVER, NOLAN, HEASTIE, TITUS, GUNTHER, RUSSELL -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. DAVILA, FAHY, JAFFEE, KIM, LAVINE, ROBINSON, SOLAGES, STECK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to the creation of the early learning council

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

Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new article 10-E to read as follows:

ARTICLE 10-E
EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL

SECTION 484-A. CREATION AND PURPOSE.
484-B. COMPOSITION.
484-C. POWERS AND DUTIES.
484-D. TERM.
484-E. SHARING OF INFORMATION.

S 484-A. CREATION AND PURPOSE. THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AN EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL. THE PURPOSE OF THE EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL IS TO SECURE SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN EARLY LEARNING FOR CHILDREN UP TO THE AGE OF FIVE BY FOCUSING ON PRACTICES THAT ARE EDUCATIONALLY, ECONOMICALLY, AND SCIENTIFICALLY SOUND.

S 484-B. COMPOSITION. THE EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF MEMBERS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE DIRECTORS OF THE BUDGET, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, OR THEIR RESPECTIVE DESIGNEES; AT LEAST FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND AT LEAST TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER AND THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, RESPECTIVELY. THE COUNCIL MAY ORGANIZE SUBCOMMITTEES TO REVIEW SPECIFIC FUNDING AND POLICY PRIORITIES.

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

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S 484-C. POWERS AND DUTIES. THE EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL WILL MEET AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR AND WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING POWERS AND DUTIES:

1. DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE BUSINESS AND CIVIC LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN EARLY LEARNING PLANNING AND ADVOCACY AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL;

2. CONSULTING WITH PERSONS WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ON FUNDING AND POLICY PRIORITIES;

3. INCREASING BUSINESS, CIVIC AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE THROUGH MAIL OR ONLINE, ORGANIZING OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS AND PROMOTING THE COST BENEFITS OF INVESTMENTS IN LEARNING; AND,

4. DEVELOPING AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE CONTAINING INFORMATION ON ALL ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE PREVIOUS YEAR AS WELL AS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS AND POLICIES.

S 484-D. TERM. APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL SHALL SERVE FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS AND CONTINUE TO SERVE UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED. MEMBERS SERVING AS A RESULT OF THEIR POSITION WITH STATE GOVERNMENT SHALL SERVE SO LONG AS THEY REMAIN IN SUCH CAPACITY. ANY VACANCIES SHALL BE FILLED PURSUANT TO SECTION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR-B OF THIS ARTICLE. MEMBERS SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION EXCEPT FOR PAYMENT OF NECESSARY AND ACTUAL EXPENSES INCURRED IN ATTENDING MEETINGS AND IN PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

S 484-E. SHARING OF INFORMATION. THE EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL MAY REQUEST, AND SHALL RECEIVE, INFORMATION FROM ANY STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY NECESSARY TO COMPLETE ITS DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, SO LONG AS SUCH INFORMATION IS NON-IDENTIFYING AND NOT OTHERWISE PROTECTED BY LAW.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that the first annual report required pursuant to section 484-c of the social services law as added by section one of this act shall be due September 1, 2015 and every September 1 thereafter.