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

May 23, 2014

Introduced by M. of A. CAMARA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to establishing the task force on disconnected youth, and providing for the powers and duties thereof

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 section 483-g to read as follows:

S 483-G. TASK FORCE ON DISCONNECTED YOUTH. 1. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "DISCONNECTED YOUTH" MEANS YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF SIXTEEN AND TWENTY-FOUR YEARS, WHO ARE NEITHER CONNECTED TO AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OR TO THE WORKFORCE.

2. (A) THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED THE TASK FORCE ON DISCONNECTED YOUTH, WHICH SHALL BE COMPOSED OF FOURTEEN MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

(I) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE, WHO SHALL BE THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE;

(II) THE COMMISSIONER OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;

(III) THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;

(IV) THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;

(V) THE COMMISSIONER OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;

(VI) THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;

(VII) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPRESENTING YOUTH ADVOCACY GROUPS; AND

(VIII) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE MISSION IS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO YOUTH WHO ARE AGING OUT OF THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM OR YOUTH INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

(B) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR.

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

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(C) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES, BUT SHALL BE ALLOWED THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. SUCH EXPENSES SHALL BE PAYABLE ON THE AUDIT AND WARRANT OF THE COMPTROLLER ON VOUCHERS CERTIFIED OR APPROVED BY THE HEAD OF THE STATE AGENCY FOR WHOM SUCH MEMBER IS EMPLOYED, AND IN THE CASE OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS, BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

3. THE TASK FORCE SHALL HAVE THE POWER AND DUTY TO:

(A) RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE INITIATIVES TO BETTER SERVE DISCONNECTED YOUTH WITH REGARD TO THEIR HEALTH, EDUCATION, LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, SKILLS TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION AND OPPORTUNITIES, MENTORING AND GENERAL WELL-BEING;

(B) EVALUATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE WITH REGARD TO EXISTING PROGRAMS, LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT COULD BE IMPROVED, CHANGED OR ELIMINATED TO BETTER SERVE DISCONNECTED YOUTH;

(C) WITHIN ONE YEAR OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT, REPORT ON HOW THE STATE CAN COLLECT, ON AN ONGOING BASIS, DATA REFLECTING THE EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES OF DISCONNECTED YOUTH REGARDING THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: (I) LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, FOR INSTANCE WHETHER THEY LIVE INDEPENDENTLY, WITH RELATIVES, FRIENDS OR OTHER, OR WHETHER THEY LIVE IN A HOMELESS SHELTER; (II) LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT; (III) EMPLOYMENT STATUS; (IV) SKILLS OR EMPLOYMENT TRAINING RECEIVED, USE OF ONE-STOPS OR OTHER TRAINING PROVIDERS, OR CERTIFICATIONS; (V) PARENTAL STATUS AND WHETHER THE CHILD OR CHILDREN IS LIVING WITH THEM; (VI) INVOLVEMENT WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM; (VII) INVOLVEMENT WITH MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS; AND (VIII) ANY OTHER FACTORS THE TASK FORCE DEEMS RELEVANT; AND

(D) REPORT ANNUALLY, ON OR BEFORE JANUARY FIFTEENTH, TO THE GOVERNOR, THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE CHAIRS OF THE APPROPRIATE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES, INCLUDING THE COMMITTEES ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, EDUCATION, LABOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH, AND THE CHAIR OF THE ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOSTER CARE, RELATING TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK FORCE WITH REGARD TO ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.