

6689

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

March 30, 2015

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

AN ACT to direct the office of general services to conduct a study to examine, evaluate and make recommendations relating to the feasibility and advisability of establishing an office of risk assessment and management, and/or chief risk officers

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

1     Section 1. The office of general services, in consultation with the  
2 department of law, the department of audit and control, the state insur-  
3 ance fund, the office of employee relations and the division of the  
4 budget, shall conduct a study to examine, evaluate and make recommenda-  
5 tions concerning the feasibility and advisability of establishing, with-  
6 in the office of general services, an office of risk assessment and  
7 management, and/or chief risk officers. The office of general services,  
8 in conducting such study, should direct its attention to at least the  
9 following:  
10     (a) the suggested proposed powers of such office of risk assessment  
11 and management, and/or chief risk officers, which may include, but not  
12 be limited to, the power to:  
13     (1) analyze the potential exposure of the state to liability and  
14 financial loss arising from its acts and omissions, from the ownership,  
15 control or use of its real and personal property, or the conduct or  
16 actions of its employees or agents;  
17     (2) establish and coordinate business continuity programs for essen-  
18 tial state functions and services;  
19     (3) implement risk management programs to manage the state's exposure  
20 to risk in the most cost effective manner including, but not limited to,  
21 programs to reduce the likelihood and potential cost of loss events, and  
22 the purchase of insurance or other risk sharing arrangements where  
23 appropriate; and

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

LBD07965-01-5

(4) coordinate and support the risk management programs of all state agencies; and

(b) the appointment of a chief risk officer, who shall be appointed and empowered to administer the proposed office of risk assessment and management. With regard to such chief risk officer, the office of general services should consider:

(1) the process for the appointment of the chief risk officer;

(2) the compensation to be paid to the chief risk officer;

(3) the qualifications of the chief risk officer, which may include, but not be limited to:

(A) an understanding of and the ability to apply the generally accepted principles, standards and techniques utilized for the identification, assessment and management of enterprise risk;

(B) possessing sufficient experience in identifying, assessing and managing enterprise risk exposures that present the breadth and level of complexity of issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised during the course of state operations; and

(C) having acquired his or her qualifications, through appropriate education and relevant risk management experience on behalf of a commercial or governmental organization; and

(c) the fulfillment of the functions of the proposed office of risk assessment and management, and/or chief risk officer by conducting a preliminary examination and evaluation, in consultation with the comptroller, the attorney general, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly, of the kinds and scope of risk exposures faced by the state. Such examination and evaluation may include, but not be limited to:

(1) the practices and procedures of all state agencies, as they pertain to, impact upon, cause or deter damage or loss to: physical property owned or controlled by the state, or physical injuries sustained by state employees, persons receiving services from the state or members of the general public;

(2) the actions, claim settlements, and claim settlement processes related to actions in the court of claims, and in federal and state courts of competent jurisdiction as they relate to the disposition of matters against the state;

(3) the essential operations and service functions of the state, and the kinds of procedures that may be necessary to maintain or restore such operations and functions to the required level following a catastrophe or emergency event;

(4) the potential future liabilities arising from existing or proposed state operations or functions;

(5) a description on how to prepare an inventory of all real property owned or leased, for a period of time of more than ten years, by all state agencies, and to begin to ascertain how to assess past, present and potential future liability exposures and the nature of those exposures; and

(6) a description of the kinds of appropriate cost effective techniques and programs needed to reduce the cost of the state's exposure to liability and financial loss arising from its operations or the ownership, control or use of real and personal property; and

(d) allowing any public benefit corporation, public authority or local government to contract for the services of the proposed chief risk officer and the office of risk assessment and management in the event that such public benefit corporation, public authority or local government is without internal risk assessment and enterprise risk management

1 services, or wishes to supplement such internal services with the  
2 services provided by the chief risk officer and the office.

3 S 2. In addition to the requirements of section one of this act, the  
4 office of general services shall, with particular care, begin to exam-  
5 ine, analyze and determine:

6 (a) an estimate of the financial benefits that could be realized by  
7 establishing an office of risk assessment and management and/or a chief  
8 risk officer, and the potential reduction in the state's liability expo-  
9 sure;

10 (b) the financial costs and an estimate of the size of the workforce  
11 necessary to establish the office of risk assessment and management  
12 and/or a chief risk officer;

13 (c) the method or process by which the proposed office of risk assess-  
14 ment and management could be established and the manner in which such  
15 office's operations could be phased in over 5 years; and

16 (d) the method of financing the establishment and operations of the  
17 office of risk assessment and management and/or a chief risk officer, in  
18 as much as the initial costs of such office, or officer may not be  
19 offset by cost savings and reduction in liability exposure until such  
20 office or officer has been in existence for an extended period of time.

21 S 3. Within eighteen months of the effective date of this act, the  
22 office of general services shall submit to the governor, the attorney  
23 general, the state comptroller, the temporary president of the senate,  
24 the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the  
25 minority leader of the assembly, a report of its findings, conclusions  
26 and recommendations, and shall submit with its report such legislative  
27 proposals as it deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

28 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.