

1815

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 15, 2015

Introduced by Sen. AVELLA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services

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:

1 Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new article
2 10-E to read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 10-E

4 EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL

5 SECTION 484-A. CREATION AND PURPOSE.

6 484-B. COMPOSITION.

7 484-C. POWERS AND DUTIES.

8 484-D. TERM.

9 484-E. SHARING OF INFORMATION.

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

15 S 484-B. COMPOSITION. THE EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF
16 MEMBERS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE DIRECTORS OF THE BUDGET, THE
17 COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, THE COMMIS-
18 SIONER OF THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE
19 OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE EMPIRE
20 STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, OR THEIR RESPECTIVE DESIGNEES; AT LEAST
21 FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY APPOINTED BY THE GOVER-
22 NOR, AND AT LEAST TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY
23 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER AND THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
24 RESPECTIVELY. THE COUNCIL MAY ORGANIZE SUBCOMMITTEES TO REVIEW SPECIFIC
25 FUNDING AND POLICY PRIORITIES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that the first
31 annual report required pursuant to section 484-c of the social services
32 law as added by section one of this act shall be due September 1, 2016
33 and every September 1 thereafter.