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I N   S E N A T E

March 4, 2016

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

AN ACT to establish a task force on tree maintenance and safety in the city of New York; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1     Section 1. A task force on tree maintenance and safety in the city of  
2 New York is hereby established to examine, evaluate, accept public  
3 comment and make recommendations concerning the adequacy of the New York  
4 city department of parks and recreation's policies for tree maintenance  
5 and the status and safety of trees within the city of New York. The task  
6 force shall determine whether such policies are currently being prac-  
7 ticed and whether such policies are sufficient to prevent accidents. The  
8 task force may make such recommendations, as it deems fit, to revise and  
9 alter policies for tree maintenance in the city of New York to better  
10 promote safety and protect the public.

11     S 2. The task force shall consist of eleven members to be appointed as  
12 follows:

13     (a) three members appointed by the New York State Arborists (Interna-  
14 tional Society of Arboriculture Chapter);

15     (b) two members appointed by New Yorkers for Parks;

16     (c) two members appointed by Park Advocates;

17     (d) one member appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

18     (e) one member appointed by the speaker of the assembly; and

19     (f) two members appointed by the governor.

20     The members of the task force shall each have experience or education  
21 in the various facets of tree maintenance and public safety. The gover-  
22 nor shall designate the chair of the task force from among the appoint-  
23 ees. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in  
24 the manner provided for original appointments.

25     S 3. The members of the task force shall receive no compensation for  
26 their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses  
27 incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this act.

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

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1 S 4. To the maximum extent feasible, the task force shall be entitled  
2 to request and receive, and shall utilize and be provided with such  
3 facilities, resources and data of any department, division, board,  
4 bureau, commission, district or agency of the state or any political  
5 subdivision thereof as it may reasonably request to properly carry out  
6 its powers and duties pursuant to this act.

7 S 5. The task force shall submit, within eighteen months of the effec-  
8 tive date of this act, a report of its findings, conclusions and recom-  
9 mendations to the governor, temporary president of the senate, speaker  
10 of the assembly, minority leader of the senate and minority leader of  
11 the assembly. The report shall include such legislative proposals as the  
12 task force deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

13 S 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be  
14 deemed repealed 18 months after such date or on the date the report  
15 required by section five of this act is submitted, whichever shall be  
16 later; provided that the task force on tree maintenance and safety in  
17 the city of New York shall notify the legislative bill drafting commis-  
18 sion upon the submission of such report in order that the commission may  
19 maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text  
20 of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effectuating the  
21 provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the  
22 public officers law.