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I N   S E N A T E

March 30, 2016

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Introduced by Sens. CROCI, ADDABBO, GOLDEN, AVELLA, CARLUCCI, GALLIVAN, HANNON, LARKIN, MARTINS, MURPHY, ORTT, RANZENHOFER, RITCHIE, SAVINO, SERINO, SEWARD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing a task force on veteran employment opportunities; 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. The executive law is amended by adding a new article 17-C  
2     to read as follows:

3                                 ARTICLE 17-C

4                     TASK FORCE ON VETERAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

5     SECTION 369-L. TASK FORCE ON VETERAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES MEMBER-  
6                     SHIP.

7             369-M. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE.

8     S 369-L. TASK FORCE ON VETERAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES MEMBERSHIP. 1.  
9     THERE IS HEREBY CREATED A TASK FORCE ON VETERAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTU-  
10    NITIES, WHICH SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, WHO SHALL BE  
11    APPOINTED NO LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
12    ARTICLE:

13    (A) THE STATE DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE,  
14    WHO SHALL SERVE AS THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE;

15    (B) THE COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES, OR HIS OR HER  
16    DESIGNEE;

17    (C) THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, OR HIS OR HER  
18    DESIGNEE;

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

20    (E) THE CHANCELLOR OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, OR HIS OR HER  
21    DESIGNEE;

22    (F) THE CHANCELLOR OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, OR HIS OR HER  
23    DESIGNEE;

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

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1 (G) THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OR HIS OR HER  
2 DESIGNEE;

3 (H) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,  
4 ONE OF WHICH SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

5 (I) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, ONE OF WHICH  
6 SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR;

7 (J) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE; AND

8 (K) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY.

9 2. NO MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM HOLDING ANY  
10 PUBLIC OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, NOR SHALL HE OR SHE FORFEIT ANY SUCH OFFICE  
11 OF EMPLOYMENT BY VIRTUE OF HIS OR HER APPOINTMENT PURSUANT TO THIS  
12 SECTION. MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR  
13 THEIR SERVICES, BUT SHALL BE ALLOWED THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES  
14 INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.  
15 A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE MAY BE REMOVED BY THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY,  
16 ONLY FOR GOOD CAUSE, AFTER NOTICE AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.  
17 VACANCIES SHALL BE FILLED IN THE SAME MANNER AS ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS.

18 S 369-M. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE. 1. ON AN ANNUAL BASIS,  
19 THE TASK FORCE SHALL HOLD AT LEAST TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS. DURING THE  
20 PUBLIC HEARINGS, THE TASK FORCE SHALL HEAR THE TESTIMONY OF VOLUNTARY  
21 WITNESSES, MAY COMPEL THE TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES AND MAY REQUIRE THE  
22 PRODUCTION OF ANY DOCUMENTS THE TASK FORCE DEEMS REASONABLY NECESSARY TO  
23 CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

24 2. AFTER RECEIPT AND REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT, THE TASK FORCE SHALL  
25 ISSUE AN ANNUAL REPORT, TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE, ON THE  
26 SUBSTANCE OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS AND INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE  
27 DEVELOPMENT OF NEW METHODS AND PROGRAMS AIMED AT ASSISTING THE STATE'S  
28 VETERANS IN FINDING AND MAINTAINING MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES,  
29 AND AN ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT METHODS AND PROGRAMS. THE ANNUAL REPORT  
30 SHALL BE ISSUED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER FIRST OF EACH YEAR, BUT SHALL NOT  
31 BE DUE IN THE FIRST YEAR THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE TAKEN  
32 EFFECT.

33 3. THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS, AS THEY RELATE  
34 TO AND IMPACT VETERAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

35 (A) HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO AWARD ACADEMIC COURSE  
36 CREDIT FOR COMPARABLE MILITARY TRAINING AND DISTANCE LEARNING BARRIERS;

37 (B) PROFESSIONAL LICENSING INCLUDING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO EASE  
38 LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES;

39 (C) STATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES;

40 (D) VETERAN CONTRACTOR PREFERENCES;

41 (E) PURCHASING PREFERENCES;

42 (F) TAX CREDITS AND MUNICIPAL GRANTS FOR HIRING UNEMPLOYED VETERANS;

43 (G) PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES; AND

44 (H) PAID LEAVE FOR COMBAT VETERANS NEEDING HEALTH SERVICES.

45 4. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL PROHIBIT THE TASK FORCE FROM REPORT-  
46 ING ON ANY OTHER TOPICS IMPACTING VETERAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES,  
47 WHICH THEY DEEM RELEVANT.

48 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be  
49 deemed repealed ten years after such date.