

2715--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 20, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. PEOPLES-STOKES, AUBRY, WRIGHT, CUSICK, COOK, ROBINSON, CLARK -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BRENNAN, CAHILL, GALEF, JAFFEE, RIVERA, TITONE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations -- recommitted to the Committee on Governmental Operations in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to establish a task force on the condition of African American men in New York state

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

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that African  
2 American men: (a) are disproportionately less likely to complete high  
3 school and to obtain a post-secondary education; (b) are more likely to  
4 be incarcerated or on parole; (c) are more likely to have lower lifetime  
5 economic earnings; (d) are more likely to have been a part of the child  
6 welfare population; (e) are more likely to have a shorter life expectan-  
7 cy; and (f) are more likely to have health problems, such as HIV/AIDS,  
8 drug dependency, heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. The legislature  
9 additionally finds that the state of New York has a compelling interest  
10 in determining the causes of these problems and in developing appropri-  
11 ate remedies.

12 S 2. The New York state task force on the condition of African Ameri-  
13 can men is hereby established. The role of the task force includes but  
14 is not limited to:

15 (a) assessing the causal factors for the condition of African American  
16 men;

17 (b) assessing state programs and initiatives that serve to improve the  
18 condition of African American men and identifying the gaps in such  
19 services;

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

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1 (c) developing strategies to reduce duplication of services and to  
2 maximize coordination between state agencies, providers and educational  
3 institutions, including developing benchmarks to measure progress; and

4 (d) preparing a report for submission to the governor and the legisla-  
5 ture that provides specific recommendations regarding existing state  
6 laws, regulations, programs, policies, and practices relating to the  
7 condition of African American men in the state.

8 S 3. The task force shall issue its findings, in the form of a report,  
9 no later than December 31, 2017.

10 S 4. The task force shall consist of 17 members and shall include the  
11 commissioner of temporary and disability assistance, the commissioner of  
12 children and family services, the commissioner of corrections and commu-  
13 nity supervision, the commissioner of economic development, the commis-  
14 sioner of health, the commissioner of human rights, the commissioner of  
15 education, the commissioner of labor and the chancellor of the state  
16 university of New York, or a designee of any of such officers. The  
17 remaining eight shall be appointed, within 60 days of the effective date  
18 of this act, as follows: two shall be appointed by the temporary presi-  
19 dent of the senate; two shall be appointed by the minority leader of the  
20 senate; two shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; and two  
21 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. The member  
22 from the office of temporary and disability assistance shall serve as  
23 the director of the task force and he or she may assign staff as is  
24 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Task force  
25 members shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be  
26 reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their  
27 duties.

28 S 5. The task force may consult with any organization, educational  
29 institution, governmental agency, or person, that advocates for African  
30 American men.

31 S 6. The director of the task force may reconvene the task force, with  
32 the same or different members, after issuance of the report, to address  
33 any further issues associated with the condition of African American men  
34 in New York state.

35 S 7. All departments or agencies of the state or subdivisions thereof  
36 shall, at the request of the director, provide the task force with such  
37 facilities, assistance, and data as will enable the task force to carry  
38 out its powers and duties.

39 S 8. This act shall take effect immediately.