

4573

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

February 3, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. CLARK, WRIGHT, RAMOS, ROBINSON, PERRY -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BRENNAN, FARRELL, LIFTON, PAULIN, TITUS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT creating a temporary state commission to examine the degree and effect of segregation in primary and secondary schools; 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. There is established within the department of education a  
2     temporary state commission to examine and review the degree of segre-  
3     gation in primary and secondary schools; here and after referred to as  
4     the commission. The commission shall have the following functions,  
5     powers and duties:  
6     a. To appoint an executive director who shall act in accordance with  
7     the policies of the commission. The commission may delegate authority to  
8     the executive director to act in the name of the commission between  
9     meetings of the commission provided such delegation is in writing and  
10    the specific powers to be delegated are enumerated;  
11    b. To appoint such other staff as are necessary to carry out its  
12    duties under this section;  
13    c. To conduct investigations in connection with: the level of segre-  
14    gation in New York's primary and secondary schools; any correlation  
15    between segregation and inadequate school funding; and the long-term  
16    economic impact of inadequate educational resources on segregated  
17    students and society;  
18    d. To make an annual report to the governor and the legislature not  
19    later than July first of each year which shall include its recommenda-  
20    tions. The commission shall make such further interim reports to the  
21    governor, or to the governor and legislature, as it shall deem advis-  
22    able, or as shall be required to do by the governor, the temporary pres-  
23    ident of the senate or the speaker of the assembly;

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

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1 e. To conduct any investigation authorized by this section at any  
2 place within the state; and to maintain offices, hold meetings and func-  
3 tion at any place within the state as it may deem necessary;

4 f. To conduct private and public hearings and to designate one or more  
5 members of the commission or of its staff to preside over any such hear-  
6 ings; and

7 g. To administer oaths or affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel  
8 their attendance, examine them under oath or affirmation and require the  
9 production of any books, records, documents or other evidence it may  
10 deem relevant or material to an investigation.

11 S 2. The commission shall consist of ten members, to be known as  
12 commissioners to be appointed as follows: Two members of the commission  
13 shall be appointed by the governor, two by the temporary president of  
14 the senate, two by the minority leader of the senate, two by the speaker  
15 of the assembly and two by the minority leader of the assembly, each to  
16 serve a three year term. No more than five members shall belong to the  
17 same political party. No member or employee of the commission shall hold  
18 any other public office or public employment and no member shall be  
19 employed as a lobbyist. The governor shall designate the chairperson of  
20 the commission from among the members thereof, who shall serve as chair-  
21 person at the pleasure of the governor. The chairperson or any six  
22 members of the commission may call a meeting. Any vacancy occurring on  
23 the commission shall be filled within 60 days of its occurrence in the  
24 same manner as the original appointment. A vacancy in the commission  
25 shall not impair the right of the remaining members to exercise all the  
26 powers of the commission. A person appointed to fill a vacancy shall be  
27 appointed for the unexpired term of the member he or she succeeds. Six  
28 members of the commission shall constitute a quorum and the commission  
29 shall have power to act by majority vote of the total number of members  
30 of the commission without vacancy. Members of the commission may be  
31 removed by the governor for substantial neglect of duty, gross miscon-  
32 duct in office, inability to discharge the powers or duties of office or  
33 violation of this section, after written notice and opportunity for a  
34 reply.

35 S 3. The members of the commission shall not receive compensation but  
36 shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance  
37 of their official duties.

38 S 4. The commission may request and shall receive from every depart-  
39 ment, division, board, bureau, commission or other agency of the state,  
40 or of any political subdivision thereof, cooperation and assistance in  
41 the performance of its duties.

42 S 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015 and shall expire March  
43 31, 2018, when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed  
44 repealed.