

2184

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 21, 2015

Introduced by Sen. HASSELL-THOMPSON -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

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 ASSEM-
BLY, 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.