

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1279--B

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. PERRY  
-- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture -- committee  
discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted  
to said committee -- reported and referred to the Committee on Codes  
-- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended  
and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to estab-  
lishing a task force on animal laws; 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. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 380 to read as follows:

3 § 380. Task force on animal laws. 1. The task force on the state of  
4 animal laws is hereby created within the department to examine, evaluate  
5 and determine how to improve the relationship between animals and humans  
6 and the animal protection laws.

7 2.(a) Such task force shall consist of fifteen members, each to serve  
8 for a term of one calendar year. Such members shall be appointed as  
9 follows: two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of  
10 the senate; one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the  
11 senate; two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly;  
12 one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly;  
13 one member shall be appointed by the attorney general; the commissioner  
14 or his or her designee; the commissioner of the department of environ-  
15 mental conservation or his or her designee; the commissioner of health  
16 or his or her designee; the commissioner of the division of criminal  
17 justice services or his or her designee; and the remaining members shall  
18 be appointed by the governor. Appointments shall be made within sixty  
19 days of the effective date of this section. Vacancies in the task force  
20 shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

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

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1 (b) All appointees shall have expertise in fields or disciplines  
2 related to animals, animal abuse and/or investigations including, but  
3 not limited to, the following areas: animal agriculture; companion  
4 animals, wildlife and wild animal protection including sheltering,  
5 rescue and adoption of companion animals; animal law enforcement and  
6 criminal defense; and animal health and veterinary medical care. All  
7 appointments shall be coordinated to ensure geographic representation  
8 from the entire state.

9 (c) The task force shall be chaired by the commissioner or selected by  
10 the commissioner from the appointed members. The task force shall elect  
11 a vice-chair and other necessary officers from among all appointed  
12 members.

13 (d) A majority of the members of the task force then in office shall  
14 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business or the exercise of  
15 any power or function of the task force. An act, determination or deci-  
16 sion of the majority of the members present during the presence of a  
17 quorum shall be held to be the act, determination, or decision of the  
18 task force.

19 (e) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the  
20 chair. Meetings may be held via teleconference. Special meetings may be  
21 called by the chair at the request of a majority of the members of the  
22 task force.

23 (f) Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their  
24 services but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in  
25 the performance of their duties in the work of the task force.

26 3. The task force established shall:

27 (a) Study laws, rules, and regulations governing animals, including  
28 but not limited to companion animals, farm animals or animals raised for  
29 food producing purposes, service and therapy animals, wildlife and  
30 animals used in entertainment, research or experimentation or any other  
31 field that governs the use or treatment of animals;

32 (b) Study laws, rules, and regulations governing the operations of  
33 duly incorporated societies for the prevention of cruelty, duly incorpo-  
34 rated humane societies, pounds, shelters, municipal or otherwise, and  
35 pet dealers; and

36 (c) Recommend ways by which to modernize the laws governing animals.

37 4. The task force may establish such advisory committees as it deems  
38 appropriate on matters relating to the task force's functions, powers  
39 and duties. Such committees shall be chaired by a task force member, but  
40 may be composed of task force members as well as other individuals  
41 selected by the task force to provide expertise of interest specific to  
42 the charge of such committee.

43 5. The task force may, as it deems appropriate, request that studies,  
44 surveys, or analyses relating to the task force's powers and duties be  
45 performed by any state department, commission, agency or public authori-  
46 ty. All state departments, commissions, agencies or public authorities  
47 shall provide information and advice in a timely manner and otherwise  
48 assist the task force with its work.

49 6. The department shall provide staff services to the task force and  
50 such other administrative assistance as may be necessary for the task  
51 force to carry out its duties, functions and powers.

52 7. The task force shall hold a minimum of three public hearings: one  
53 in New York city; one in western New York; and one in upstate eastern  
54 New York. The task force may hold additional public hearings in other  
55 locations as it deems appropriate.

1     8. The task force shall make a preliminary report to the governor and  
2 the legislature of its findings, conclusions, recommendations and activ-  
3 ities already undertaken by the task force, not later than one year  
4 after the effective date of this section, and a final report of its  
5 findings, conclusions, recommendations and activities already undertaken  
6 by the task force, not later than two years after the effective date of  
7 this section and shall submit with its reports legislative proposals as  
8 it deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

9     § 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall  
10 have become a law and shall expire twenty-four months after it shall  
11 have become a law when upon such date the provisions of this act shall  
12 be deemed repealed.