

STATE OF NEW YORK

4741

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 27, 2017

Introduced by Sen. HANNON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing a rural health council

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 4 of section 235 of the public health law, as
2 added by chapter 630 of the laws of 1991, is amended to read as follows:

3 4. "Rural health council" shall mean [~~that advisory body to the~~
4 ~~commissioner, created July, nineteen hundred eighty-eight, with members~~
5 ~~appointed by the governor~~] the rural health council established pursuant
6 to section two hundred thirty-six-b of this title.

7 § 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 236-b to
8 read as follows:

9 § 236-b. Rural health council. 1. There shall be established within
10 the office a rural health council to be composed of twenty-one members
11 who shall be appointed as follows:

12 a. five members by the temporary president of the senate;

13 b. two members by the minority leader of the senate;

14 c. five members by the speaker of the assembly;

15 d. two members by the minority leader of the assembly; and

16 e. seven members by the governor.

17 Vacancies in the membership of such council shall be filled by the
18 appropriate appointing authority. The rural health council shall select
19 a chairperson from among its members. The members of the council shall
20 be reflective of the state's rural areas, as defined in subdivision
21 seven of section four hundred eighty-one of the executive law, and shall
22 include representatives of health care providers that comprise the
23 health care delivery system in the state's rural areas, individuals with
24 expertise in clinical and administrative aspects of health care deliv-
25 ery, health care financing and reimbursement, health care regulation,

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

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1 public health, health planning, health workforce education, and behav-
2 ioral health.

3 2. The rural health council shall be responsible for advising the
4 commissioner with respect to all aspects of rural health care and rural
5 health care delivery including, but not limited to, the impact of
6 proposed programs, statutes, regulations and health care reimbursement
7 policies. The rural health council shall also assist the office with its
8 responsibilities as delineated in section two hundred thirty-six of this
9 title; contribute to the biennial report required pursuant to section
10 two hundred thirty-seven of this title, and act as liaison and advocate
11 on rural health matters.

12 3. At least annually the rural health council shall, in conjunction
13 with the office, submit a report to the regional economic development
14 councils on the status of the health care workforce supply in their
15 respective regions.

16 4. Staff support for the rural health council shall be provided for by
17 the office as provided for in section two hundred thirty-six of this
18 title.

19 5. The rural health council shall meet as frequently as its business
20 may require, but not less than two times a year. Meetings may be called
21 by the chairman or at the request of the commissioner.

22 6. The entirety of each meeting of the rural health council shall be
23 live webcast to the public on the department's website, and archived on
24 the department's website, for a period of no less than two years, within
25 twenty-four hours of the adjournment of the last meeting. The department
26 shall provide notice to the public, via the department's website, of the
27 availability of the live webcast of each such meeting.

28 7. The members of the rural health council shall receive no compen-
29 sation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and neces-
30 sary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties hereunder.

31 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.