STATE OF NEW YORK

7406--A

IN SENATE

January 12, 2018

Introduced by Sen. GOLDEN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and Families -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT creating a temporary state taskforce on the use of portable information technology for child protective services caseworkers; 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:

Section 1. A temporary state taskforce on the use of portable information technology for child protective services caseworkers is hereby established to study the use of portable information technology by child protective services caseworkers and make a report of its findings.

§ 2. The taskforce shall be chaired by the commissioner of the office of children and family services and shall consist of the following members, with adequate geographic representation, to be appointed as follows: five members to be appointed by the governor; four members to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; and four members to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly. The members shall have demonstrated experience and expertise in the fields of social work and child protection. The members of the taskforce shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties under this act.

§ 3. The taskforce shall meet and may hold public hearings, and may undertake any studies, inquiries, surveys or analyses it deems relevant in cooperation with or by agreement with any other public or private agency.

§ 4. The taskforce shall focus on issues related to improving child protective services caseworkers' caseload management through the use of portable information technology statewide, including but not limited to, an examination of the following:

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

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(a) the local departments of social services that participated in the program established pursuant to part G of chapter 58 of the laws of 2006 and expanded pursuant to part K-2 of chapter 57 of the laws of 2007 to determine whether the child protective services caseworkers employed by such departments are currently using portable information technology to assist with their job duties, how such technology is being used, and for any such department whose child protective services caseworkers are not using portable information technology, the reason or reasons why such technology is not being used;

(b) the local departments of social services that did not participate in the program established in 2006 and expanded in 2007 that are currently using portable information technology in the provision of child protective services, and how such technology is being employed;

(c) the local departments of social services that did not participate in the program established in 2006 and expanded in 2007 whose child protective services caseworkers are not using portable information technology to determine the reason or reasons why such technology is not being used;

(d) available information technology, including software, to assist caseworkers with their job duties or caseload management to determine the viability of such technology in the provision of child protective services. Special focus should be placed on those technologies that are portable, and on software that can be used by portable devices; and

(e) best practices for the integration of portable information technology and software in the provision of child protective services to improve the workload of child protective services caseworkers and to develop guidelines for such best practices.

§ 5. The taskforce shall make a report of its findings to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly, no later than two years after the effective date of this act. Such report shall include any recommendations for any regulatory or statutory changes or changes in funding for the purpose of managing child protective services caseworkers' caseloads and employing technology in the provision of child protective services.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed three years after such date.