

STATE OF NEW YORK

8988

IN ASSEMBLY

January 9, 2018

Introduced by M. of A. JONES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring the governor to appoint the members of the rural health council and requiring the rural health council to make certain recommendations to the department of health

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

Section 1. Section 236-b of the public health law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2017, amending the public health law, relating to establishing a rural health council, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.4741 and A.7203, is amended to read as follows:

§ 236-b. Rural health council. 1. There shall be established within the office a rural health council to be composed of twenty-one members who shall be appointed by the governor, with ten of these members appointed as follows:

a. ~~[five]~~ four members ~~[by]~~ upon the recommendation of the temporary president of the senate;

b. ~~[two members by]~~ one member upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the senate;

c. ~~[five]~~ four members ~~[by]~~ upon the recommendation of the speaker of the assembly; and

d. ~~[two members by]~~ one member upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the assembly~~[-and~~

~~e. seven members by the governor]~~.

Vacancies in the membership of such council shall be filled by the appropriate appointing authority. The ~~[rural health council]~~ governor shall select a chairperson from among ~~[its]~~ the members of the council. The members of the council shall be reflective of the state's rural areas, as defined in subdivision seven of section four hundred eighty-one of the executive law, and shall include representatives of health care providers that comprise the health care delivery system in the state's rural areas, individuals with expertise in clinical and administrative aspects of health care delivery, health care financing and

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

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1 reimbursement, health care regulation, public health, health planning,
2 health workforce education, and behavioral 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. The rural health council shall recommend to the department cost-
13 effective ways to obtain timely data on the status of the health care
14 workforce supply in rural areas. At least [~~annually~~] once every three
15 years the rural health council shall, in conjunction with the office,
16 submit a report to the regional economic development councils on the
17 status of the health care workforce supply in their respective regions
18 to the extent data on the health care workforce supply is available.

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

22 5. The rural health council shall meet as frequently as its business
23 may require, but not less than two times a year. Meetings may be called
24 by the [~~chairman or~~] chairperson at the request of the commissioner.

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

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

34 § 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same
35 manner as a chapter of the laws of 2017, amending the public health law,
36 relating to establishing a rural health council, as proposed in legisla-
37 tive bills numbers S.4741 and A.7203, takes effect.