

STATE OF NEW YORK

9023

IN ASSEMBLY

January 10, 2020

Introduced by M. of A. SIMOTAS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT in relation to establishing a temporary task force to examine and make recommendations upon the establishment of a public title insurance carrier; and to provide for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. There is hereby established, within the department of
2 financial services, a temporary task force to examine and make recommen-
3 dations upon the establishment of a public title insurance carrier ("the
4 task force"). The task force shall consist of nine members who shall be
5 appointed as follows:

6 a. the superintendent of the department of financial services or his
7 or her designee;

8 b. four members to be appointed by the governor;

9 c. two members to be appointed by the temporary president of the
10 senate; and

11 d. two members to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly.

12 § 2. No member of the task force shall be a current or former employee
13 of the title insurance industry.

14 § 3. Task force members shall receive no compensation for their
15 services but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses
16 incurred in the performance of their duties.

17 § 4. The chairperson of the task force shall be the superintendent of
18 the department of financial services or his or her designee. The task
19 force shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

20 § 5. Any vacancies on the task force shall be filled in the manner
21 provided for in the initial appointment.

22 § 6. The task force shall be authorized to hold public hearings and
23 meetings to enable it to accomplish its duties.

24 § 7. The task force shall consult with relevant stakeholders, includ-
25 ing the title insurance industry, consumer advocacy groups, the real
26 estate industry, and any other organization, educational institution,

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

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1 government entity or agency or person the task force deems necessary in
2 the development of its report required by subdivision ten of this
3 section.

4 § 8. The department of financial services shall provide the task force
5 with such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the task force
6 to carry out its powers and duties. Additionally, all other agencies of
7 the state or subdivisions thereof may, at the request of the chair-
8 person, provide the task force with such facilities, assistance and data
9 as will enable the task force to carry out its powers and duties.

10 § 9. The purpose of the task force shall be to examine and make recom-
11 mendations on issues including but not limited to:

12 a. the establishment of a public title insurance carrier, including
13 but not limited to:

14 i. the structure and administration of public title insurance carriers
15 in other jurisdictions, including Iowa;

16 ii. the impact the establishment of a public title insurance carrier
17 would have on lenders and consumers, including the impact on title
18 insurance premium rates;

19 iii. the impact the establishment of a public title insurance carrier
20 would have on the current title insurance industry in the state;

21 iv. whether such public title insurance carrier should offer coverage
22 for residential real estate, commercial real estate, or both;

23 v. the cost to the state of establishing such a public title insurance
24 carrier; and

25 vi. whether such public title insurance carrier should be the only
26 title insurance carrier authorized to do business in the state;

27 b. an analysis of the title insurance industry in New York State,
28 including but not limited to:

29 i. current laws and regulations within this state addressing the title
30 insurance industry;

31 ii. an analysis of title insurance premium rates in the state; and

32 iii. an analysis of the claim rates of title insurance policies in the
33 state.

34 § 10. No later than one year after the effective date of this section,
35 the task force shall transmit to the governor, the temporary president
36 of the senate and the speaker of the assembly a report on its findings,
37 including any recommendations for legislation or regulations.

38 § 11. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be
39 deemed repealed sixty days after transmission of the report of the find-
40 ings of the task force to the governor, the temporary president of the
41 senate and the speaker of the assembly, as provided in section ten of
42 this act. Provided, however, that the commissioner of the department of
43 financial services shall notify the legislative bill drafting commission
44 upon the transmission of the report of the findings of the task force,
45 as provided in section ten of this act, in order that the commission may
46 maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text
47 of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effectuating the
48 provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the
49 public officers law.