STATE OF NEW YORK

4031

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 25, 2019

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

AN ACT to establish a commission for the educational advancement of multilingual learners in New York; 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. Commission established. (a) A commission, to be known as the commission for the educational advancement of multilingual learners, hereafter referred to as the commission, is hereby created to study and write a report on the best practices and legislative recommendations to close the achievement gap and high school graduation rates between multilingual learners and their English proficient peers from prekindergarten through twelfth grade. The report will advise the legislature, governor, board of regents, and New York state education officials on the best practices and legislative recommendations to close the achievement gap; and the feasibility and cost to implement such practices in schools.

(b) The commission shall be composed of nine members, appointed as follows: (i) two members shall be appointed by the governor; (ii) two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; (iii) two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; (iv) two members shall be appointed by the commissioner of the New York state department of education; and (v) one member shall be the chancellor of the board of regents or appointed thereof. The commission shall be chaired by a person chosen by a majority vote at the first meeting of the commission. The vice-chairperson of the commission shall be appointed by the chairperson. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

(c) The commission shall be made up of at least: (i) one education professional who specializes in English to Speakers of Other Languages

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

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and Bilingual Programs; (ii) one teacher who has experience working with multilingual students; (iii) one education professional who has experience working with early childhood multilingual learners; (iv) one education professional who has experience with multilingual newcomers and high school graduation; and (v) one education professional who has expertise in education equity of New York state students.

(d) The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties hereunder.

(e) The commission shall begin to act 30 days after this act shall become a law.

§ 2. Appointments to commission. The legislative leaders, the governor, the chancellor of the board of regents, and the commissioner of education shall submit their appointments to the board of regents, and the board of regents shall make appointments, no later than 30 days after this act becomes a law.

§ 3. Commission staff and agency liaison. (a) The commissioner of education shall designate such employees of the department of education as are reasonably necessary to provide support services to the commission. The commissioner of education shall appoint one or more representatives of the department of education to serve as liaison between such department and the commission.

(b) All state agencies, public authorities, public benefit corporations and any public-school district in New York state shall provide such assistance as may be reasonably requested by the chair of the commission.

(c) The commission, acting by the chair of the commission, may employ additional staff and consultants, who shall be paid from amounts available to the commission for that purpose.

§ 4. Accomplishment of purpose. The commission shall be authorized and empowered to undertake any studies, inquiries, surveys or analyses it may deem relevant. The commission shall meet and hold public hearings or private meetings within or without the state, and shall have all the powers of a legislative committee pursuant to the legislative law.

§ 5. Report on best practices and legislative recommendations. The commission shall make a report of its findings, including any recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary and appropriate, to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chairperson of the senate committee on education, the chairperson of the senate committee on New York City education, the chairperson of the assembly committee on education, the board of regents, and the commissioner of education no later than December 31, 2019.

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