

STATE OF NEW YORK

4467

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 12, 2019

Introduced by Sen. CARLUCCI -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

AN ACT to establish a Black youth suicide prevention task force; 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:

1 Section 1. Black youth suicide prevention task force. (a) There is
2 hereby created the Black youth suicide prevention task force to examine,
3 evaluate and determine how to improve mental health and suicide
4 prevention for our Black New York residents aged 5 through 18 years,
5 consisting of seven members, each to serve until two years after the
6 effective date of this act.

7 (b)(1) Such members shall be appointed as follows: one member shall be
8 appointed by the governor; one member shall be appointed by the tempo-
9 rary president of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the
10 minority leader of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the
11 speaker of the assembly; one member shall be appointed by the minority
12 leader of the assembly; and two members shall be appointed by the
13 commissioner of health. Appointments shall be made within sixty days of
14 the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the task force shall be
15 filled in the same manner provided for original appointments.

16 (2) All appointees shall have expertise in fields or disciplines
17 related to mental health and knowledge related to the Black community.
18 All appointments shall be coordinated to ensure geographic represen-
19 tation from the entire state.

20 (3) The task force shall be chaired by the governor's appointee. The
21 task force shall elect a vice-chair and other necessary officers from
22 among all appointed members.

23 (4) A majority of the members of the task force in office shall
24 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business or the exercise of

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

LBD10558-02-9

1 any power or function of the task force. An act, determination or deci-
2 sion of the majority of the members present during the presence of a
3 quorum shall be held to be the act, determination, or decision of the
4 task force.

5 (5) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the
6 chair. Meetings may be held via teleconference. Special meetings may be
7 called by the chair at the request of a majority of the members of the
8 task force.

9 (6) Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their
10 services but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in
11 the performance of their duties in the work of the task force.

12 (c) The task force shall:

13 (1) study current mental health practices and suicide prevention
14 efforts for Black youths aged 5 through 18 years;

15 (2) recommend mental health practices and suicide prevention efforts
16 for such age group to increase effectiveness across the state; and

17 (3) determine potential reasons for the high number of Black youth
18 suicides.

19 (d) The task force may establish such advisory committees as it deems
20 appropriate on matters relating to the task force's functions, powers
21 and duties. Such committees shall be chaired by a task force member, but
22 may be composed of task force members as well as other individuals
23 selected by the task force to provide expertise of interest specific to
24 the charge of such committees.

25 (e) The task force may, as it deems appropriate, request that studies,
26 surveys, or analyses relating to the task force's powers and duties be
27 performed by any state department, commission, agency or public authori-
28 ty. All state departments, commissions, agencies or public authorities
29 shall provide information and advice in a timely manner and otherwise
30 assist the task force with its work.

31 (f) The task force shall submit a request for any appropriation as
32 shall be necessary to enable the task force to perform its functions and
33 duties to the governor, director of the division of budget, and chair-
34 persons of the senate finance committee and the assembly ways and means
35 committee.

36 (g) The task force may hold public hearings, take testimony and make
37 investigations at such places as it deems necessary.

38 (h) The task force shall make a preliminary report to the governor and
39 the legislature of its findings, conclusions, recommendations and activ-
40 ities already undertaken by the task force, not later than thirteen
41 months after the effective date of this act, and a final report of its
42 findings, conclusions, recommendations and activities already undertaken
43 by the task force, not later than twenty-two months after the effective
44 date of this act and shall submit with its reports legislative proposals
45 as it deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

46 § 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
47 have become a law and shall expire 2 years after such effective date
48 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.