STATE OF NEW YORK

8129

IN SENATE

March 24, 2020

Introduced by Sen. GOUNARDES -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Civil Service and Pensions

AN ACT amending part B of chapter 104 of the laws of 2005 enacting the September 11th worker protection task force act, in relation to requiring appointment of members, convening of meetings and extending the effectiveness of the provisions of such act

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

Section 1. Sections 4 and 5, paragraph (f) of section 9 and sections 10 and 11 of part B of chapter 104 of the laws of 2005, enacting the September 11th worker protection task force act, paragraph (f) of section 9 as amended by chapter 93 of the laws of 2005 and subdivision 11 as amended by chapter 45 of the laws of 2015, are amended to read as follows:

§ 4. Time of appointment. The appointing authorities shall make their appointments to the task force not later than thirty days after the adjournment of the [~~2005~~] 2020 regular legislative session. The original appointing authority, using the criteria set out in this section for the original appointment shall fill a vacancy on the task force.

§ 5. Time of convention. The task force shall convene within ninety days after the adjournment of the [~~2005~~] 2020 regular legislative session and meet [~~at least quarterly or more frequently at the call of the chairperson~~] on a biannual basis.

(f) to identify and examine the limitations of any existing laws, regulations, programs, and services with regard to coverage, extent of disability, process for determination, *including average processing times for claims of disability and notices of participation and approval rates for such claims and notices,* adequacy of coverage and treatment of specific types of disabilities*, including lack of coverage for public employees who participated in rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations in either a professional or volunteer capacity but had not joined a retirement system at the time of such participation, appeals processes for claims both within public retirement systems and the court system,*

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

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opportunities to synchronize various World Trade Center-related benefit programs at the federal and state level, and methods for identifying all participants in the rescue, recovery, or clean up operations so that the state may work to proactively treat the conditions described in subdivision g of section 63 of the retirement and social security law, and to undertake any recommendations;

§ 10. Report. Beginning June 1, [~~2006~~] **2021**, and on June first each year thereafter, the task force shall submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly. Each such annual report shall address:

(a) progress being made in fulfilling the duties of the task force and in developing recommendations; and

(b) recommended strategies or actions for ongoing monitoring and treatment of individuals.

§ 11. This act shall take effect September 11, 2005, and shall expire and be deemed repealed on June 10, [~~2020~~] **2025**.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.