

STATE OF NEW YORK

9598

IN ASSEMBLY

January 27, 2020

Introduced by M. of A. ARROYO, CRUZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction

AN ACT to establish the incarcerated individual undergraduate degree completion task force; and providing 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. The state department of corrections and community super-
2 vision shall establish an incarcerated individual undergraduate degree
3 completion task force for correction facilities to examine, evaluate and
4 issue recommendations on how to ensure courses taken by individuals
5 while incarcerated qualify for degree completion at a qualified state
6 college or university.

7 § 2. For the purpose of this act the following terms have the follow-
8 ing meanings:

9 (a) "Qualified state college or university" shall mean a campus of the
10 state university of New York, a campus of the city university of New
11 York, or a campus of the commission on independent colleges and univer-
12 sities.

13 (b) "Commissioner" shall mean the state commissioner of corrections
14 and community supervision.

15 § 3. (a) Such task force shall consist of nine members that shall be
16 appointed as follows: six members shall be appointed by the governor
17 with recommendations from the state university of New York, the city
18 university of New York and the commission on independent colleges and
19 universities; one member shall be appointed by the temporary president
20 of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the speaker of the
21 assembly; and one member shall be appointed by the commissioner of
22 corrections.

23 (b) The task force shall be chaired by the commissioner or selected by
24 the commissioner from the appointed members. The task force shall elect
25 a vice-chair and other necessary officers from among all appointed
26 members.

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

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1 (c) Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their
2 services but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in
3 the performance of their duties in the work of the task force.

4 § 4. The task force shall, in collaboration with the department of
5 corrections and community supervision and the department of education,
6 and in consultation with the state university of New York, the city
7 university of New York and the commission on independent colleges and
8 universities, examine, evaluate and issue recommendations on:

9 (a) ensuring all credits received from a qualified state college or
10 university or an approved incarcerated individual undergraduate college
11 program are transferable and apply to undergraduate degree programs
12 offered at a qualified state college or university;

13 (b) what credit courses shall be offered, including but not limited
14 to: (i) when such courses will be offered, (ii) how many individuals are
15 able to take part in the program at each state correctional facility,
16 (iii) what educational materials will be provided for each credit
17 course; (iv) what mechanism for learning will be utilized to teach the
18 credit courses; (v) the credit equivalency to other like credit courses
19 offered at a qualified state college or university; and (vi) any other
20 issue the task force deems necessary in determining what credit courses
21 shall be offered;

22 (c) how, if applicable, a qualified state college or university will
23 collaborate with state correctional facilities to provide undergraduate
24 degree completion program services, including but not limited to: (i)
25 academic counselors, (ii) instructional personnel, (iii) tutoring
26 services, or (iv) any other service the task force deems necessary to
27 assist incarcerated individuals in completing their undergraduate
28 degree;

29 (d) various methods to fund or otherwise raise capital for such incar-
30 cerated individual undergraduate degree completion programs; and

31 (e) any other issue such task force deems relevant.

32 § 5. The task force may, as it deems appropriate, request that
33 studies, surveys, or analyses relating to the task force's powers and
34 duties be performed by any state department, commission, agency or
35 public authority. All state departments, commissions, agencies or public
36 authorities shall provide information and advice in a timely manner and
37 otherwise assist the task force with its work.

38 § 6. The department of corrections and community supervision shall
39 provide staff services to the task force and such other administrative
40 assistance as may be necessary for the task force to carry out its
41 duties, functions and powers.

42 § 7. The task force shall make and submit a report of its findings,
43 conclusions and recommendations to the governor, the temporary president
44 of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on or before February 1,
45 2021 and shall submit with its report legislative proposals as it deems
46 necessary to implement such recommendations.

47 § 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be
48 deemed repealed March 1, 2021.