

STATE OF NEW YORK

7589

IN SENATE

January 29, 2020

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

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to creating the New York state volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention task force

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

1 Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section
2 159-d-1 to read as follows:

3 § 159-d-1. New York state volunteer firefighter recruitment and
4 retention task force. There is hereby created the volunteer firefighter
5 recruitment and retention task force whose membership shall consist of
6 the chair or his or her designee; the commissioner of homeland security
7 and emergency services or his or her designee; the commissioner of
8 education or his or her designee; the chancellor of the state university
9 of New York or his or her designee; the commissioner of taxation and
10 finance or his or her designee; the commissioner of labor or his or her
11 designee; the president of the Fireman's Association of the State of New
12 York or his or her designee; the president of the Association of Fire
13 Districts or his or her designee; the president of the New York State
14 Association of Fire Chiefs or his or her designee; the president of the
15 New York State Fire Coordinators or his or her designee; the temporary
16 president of the senate or his or her designee; the speaker of the
17 assembly or his or her designee; the minority leader of the senate or
18 his or her designee; and the minority leader of the assembly or his or
19 her designee. The governor shall appoint the chair of the task force.
20 The task force shall report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly
21 and the temporary president of the senate no later than one year after
22 the effective date of this section. Such report shall include, but not
23 be limited to, recommendations concerning:

24 1. Firefighter 1 training, and all other firefighter training offered
25 by the office of fire prevention and control, and delivery methods to
26 enhance and streamline training including the use of distance learning;

27 2. The utilization of community colleges, BOCES or state accredited
28 high schools to train firefighters and the creation of pilot programs

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

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1 within community colleges or BOCES that will offer Firefighter 1 certifi-
2 cation upon completion;

3 3. The creation of a dedicated bureau within the office of fire
4 prevention and control responsible for recruitment and retention of
5 volunteer firefighters;

6 4. Tax incentives and volunteer firefighter benefits currently
7 provided and recommendations as to these or new programs;

8 5. Analysis of current recruitment and retention programs successfully
9 being utilized by other states and recommendations as to adoption of
10 similar programs in New York; and

11 6. Identification and recruitment incentives to assist in the recruit-
12 ment of volunteer firefighters from under-represented and at-risk popu-
13 lations.

14 All appointees of the task force shall be made no later than thirty
15 days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
16 filled by the appointing authority. The task force shall meet no less
17 than six times prior to issuing its recommendations. The members of the
18 task force shall serve without compensation, except that members shall
19 be allowed their necessary and actual expenses incurred in the perform-
20 ance of their duties under this section. The department of homeland
21 security and emergency services shall provide the task force with such
22 facilities, assistance, and data as will enable such task force to carry
23 out its powers and duties.

24 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.