STATE OF NEW YORK

8673

IN SENATE

July 2, 2020

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

AN ACT to establish a working group to promote racial equity throughout the state

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

Section 1. There is hereby established within the office of the state commissioner of health a working group to be known as "racial equity working group".

§ 2. The working group shall address the issues related to racism as a public health crisis and do the following: create a publicly accessible glossary of terms and definitions concerning racism and health equity; promote community engagement and provide tools for government agencies to engage actively and authentically with communities of color; continue to work to build alliances with organizations that have a legacy and track record of confronting racism; encourage community partners and stakeholders in the education, employment, housing, and criminal justice and safety arenas to recognize racism as a public health crisis and take appropriate action; continue to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development in New York; continue to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including state employees; provide training to all elected officials, staff, funders, and grantees on workplace biases and how to mitigate them; promote and encourage all policies that prioritize the health of people of color; support local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systematic racism and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma; incorporate educational efforts to address and dismantle racism and to expand understanding of racism and how racism affects individual and population health; and secure adequate resources to successfully accomplish the aforementioned activities.

§ 3. The working group shall consist of the following:

(a) the state commissioner of health and his or her designee;

(b) one member appointed by the state commissioner of health;

(c) two members appointed by the governor;

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

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(d) one member appointed by the speaker of the assembly;
(e) one member appointed by the temporary president of the senate;
(f) one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly; and
(g) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

§ 4. The members and staff personnel of the racial equity working group shall serve without compensation, but shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for their reasonable, actual and necessary expenses, provided however, members of the working group representing state agencies may receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses from their respective agencies.

§ 5. For the purposes of this act, the commissioner of health may conduct such study in conjunction with any other department, division, board, bureau, commission, agency, or public authority of the state he or she deems necessary. To the maximum extent feasible, the commissioner of health shall be authorized to request, receive, and utilize such resources and data of any other department, division, board, bureau, commission, agency, or public authority of the state as he or she may reasonably request to properly carry out his or her powers and duties pursuant to this act.

§ 6. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law.