STATE OF NEW YORK

7734

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 20, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. PHEFFER AMATO, HYNDMAN, CARROLL, JONES, NORRIS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to create a temporary "commission to prevent childhood drowning" to improve water safety in New York state; 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:

Section 1. A temporary commission to be known as the "commission to prevent childhood drowning", hereafter referred to as the "commission", is hereby created to evaluate and develop programs to properly educate and instruct children on water safety and how to swim.

§ 2. (a) The commission shall consist of nine members to be appointed as follows: three members appointed by the governor; two members appointed by the temporary president of the senate; two members appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate, and one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner provided for original appointments and designations.

(b) The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this act.

(c) The commission may hold public hearings and is hereby authorized and empowered to undertake any studies, inquiries, surveys or analyses it may deem relevant.

(d) The commission shall be entitled to request and be provided with such resources and data of any relevant department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the state to carry out properly its powers and duties pursuant to this act.

(e) The members of the commission may participate in a meeting of such commission or committee by means of a telephone conference, provided

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

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that all meetings shall operate in accordance with article seven of the public officers law.

§ 3. The commission shall:

(a) Determine an appropriate age and/or stage of childhood development when children can properly begin water safety and swimming instructions and develop statewide standards for such instruction;

(b) Investigate and evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of programs which incentivize parents and guardians to enroll children in water safety and swimming instruction;

(c) Develop a comprehensive plan for public-private partnerships between the state and community centers, nonprofit organizations, recreational facilities, swimming instructors, and other relevant stakeholders and expanding existing state resources such as parks and pools to provide access to free swimming instruction, and determine the feasibility of such programs;

(d) Develop an implementation plan to ensure its swimming safety programs are available in underserved communities; and

(e) Develop a comprehensive plan for a public awareness campaign to ensure parents and guardians receive information on the importance of children receiving basic water safety and swimming instruction.

§ 4. The commission shall issue a report of its findings no later than one year after the effective date of this act. The commission shall submit such report, including any recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary and appropriate, to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and shall publish such report on the website of the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law, and shall expire and be deemed repealed eighteen months after it shall have become a law.