STATE OF NEW YORK

2555--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 21, 2021

Introduced by Sens. BRISPORT, BROUK, COONEY, JACKSON, KAMINSKY, REICHLIN-MELNICK, SALAZAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to establish a task force on educator diversity 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. Task force on educator diversity in New York state. There is hereby established a task force on educator diversity in New York state. The purpose of the task force shall be to conduct a comprehensive study on the presence of educator diversity, state actions taken to promote educator diversity in New York state, and how New York state can encourage new initiatives to enhance and promote educator diversity, including but not limited to:

(a) barriers which prevent students of color from entering the teaching profession, or remaining in the teaching profession;

(b) recruitment and retention efforts;

(c) mentorship programs for current educators of color;

(d) initiatives aimed at encouraging students of color to enter the teaching profession, also known as 'grow your own' initiatives;

(e) scholarship opportunities for students of color who are interested in entering the teaching profession, and other funding mechanisms to assist such students;

(f) initiatives that encourage teachers of color to become school leaders and administrators, and barriers that have prevented teachers of color from becoming school leaders and administrators; and

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

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(g) reviewing and commenting on reports issued by the state education department related to educator diversity.

§ 2. a. The task force shall consist of thirteen members to be appointed as follows: (i) five people appointed by the governor; (ii) four people appointed by the temporary president of the senate; and (iii) four people appointed by the speaker of the assembly.

b. The members of the task force shall designate one of the appointees as the chair of the task force. All appointments of members of the task force shall be made no later than thirty days after the effective date of this act. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. The members of the task force 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.

§ 3. The task force shall make a report to the governor and legislature of its findings, conclusions and recommendations on or before December 31, 2023.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire and be deemed repealed January 31, 2024.