

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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7429

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

October 12, 2021

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Introduced by Sens. GOUNARDES, MAY, RYAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT directing the commissioner of labor to conduct a comprehensive study on immigrant and refugee participation in adult education and the workforce; 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:

1 Section 1. 1. The commissioner of labor, in consultation with the  
2 commissioner of the office of temporary and disability assistance, the  
3 commissioner of education, and the New York state office for new Ameri-  
4 cans (hereinafter referred to as "the commissioners") in conjunction  
5 with any other department, division, board, bureau, commission, agency,  
6 or public authority of the state or any political subdivision thereof  
7 deemed necessary by the commissioners, shall conduct a comprehensive  
8 study and prepare a report on immigrant and refugee participation in  
9 adult education and the workforce. The data collected shall only be  
10 utilized as authorized under state and federal law to inform the state's  
11 efforts to advance economic stability and integration for immigrants and  
12 refugees. The state shall never use or share the data solely for the use  
13 of civil immigration enforcement.

14 2. The study shall:

15 (a) identify any barriers that refugees and immigrants face to enter-  
16 ing the workforce, including but not limited to licensing, language  
17 access, and transportation;

18 (b) assess participation by and obstacles to refugees and immigrants  
19 in adult education and workforce training programs;

20 (c) compare, to the extent practicable, the current employment of  
21 refugees and immigrants to that of their employment prior to resettling  
22 in the United States, including any occupational and professional  
23 licenses, certifications, credentials and academic degrees earned;

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

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1 (d) identify the top occupations that refugees and immigrants seek to  
2 work in and any barriers that prevent them from using work experience  
3 and education gained outside of the United States to obtain employment  
4 in such occupations; and

5 (e) identify any other issues the commissioners deem relevant to the  
6 purposes of this act.

7 3. In conducting such study and developing recommendations, the  
8 commissioners shall seek the input of relevant governmental and non-go-  
9 vernmental stakeholders from across the state, including refugees and  
10 immigrants.

11 4. Not later than one year after the effective date of this act, the  
12 commissioners shall prepare and submit to the governor, the temporary  
13 president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly a report of the  
14 study's findings, together with specific recommendations for minimizing  
15 existing barriers and maximizing opportunities for refugees and immi-  
16 grants to gain access to education and enter the workforce in New York  
17 State.

18 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be  
19 deemed repealed 2 years after it shall have become a law.