

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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7688--A

## IN SENATE

January 7, 2022

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Introduced by Sen. THOMAS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to establish the people with disabilities access to programs commission

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

1 Section 1. 1. (a) There is hereby established a people with disabili-  
2 ties access to programs commission to examine, evaluate and make recom-  
3 mendations for new laws with respect to how the state should streamline  
4 eligibility requirements and processes for its programs and services to  
5 assist people with disabilities including but not limited to programs  
6 overseen by the office for people with developmental disabilities,  
7 office of mental health, department of health, ACCES-VR, and the office  
8 of children and family services. The commission's report shall be due  
9 by December 1, 2023.

10 (b) The commission shall be comprised of eleven members, five of which  
11 shall be appointed by the governor, two of which shall be appointed by  
12 the temporary president of the senate, two of which shall be appointed  
13 by the speaker of the assembly, one of which shall be appointed by the  
14 minority leader of the senate, and one of which shall be appointed by  
15 the minority leader of the assembly. The commission shall not be fully  
16 constituted without the appointment of the eleventh member. There shall  
17 be no chairperson appointed, and the commission shall be governed by a  
18 majority vote, and at all times, the commission shall act with a quorum.

19 2. (a) The commission shall only meet within the state and shall hold  
20 at least one hearing at which the public will be afforded an opportunity  
21 to provide comments. The commission may hold additional public hearings  
22 as it deems necessary. Such additional hearings, if any, may allow for  
23 an opportunity to provide public comments.

24 (b) The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for  
25 their services but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses  
26 incurred in the performance of their duties hereunder. Nothing contained

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

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1 herein shall prohibit a member of the commission from receiving his or  
2 her salary earned by reason of their state employee position.

3 (c) No member of the commission shall be disqualified from holding any  
4 other public office or public employment, nor shall he or she forfeit  
5 any such public office or public employment by reason of his or her  
6 appointment pursuant to this section, notwithstanding the provisions of  
7 any general, special or local law, regulation, ordinance or city char-  
8 ter.

9 (d) To the maximum extent feasible and as authorized by law, the  
10 commission shall be entitled to request and receive and shall utilize  
11 and be provided with such facilities, resources and data of any court,  
12 department, division, board, bureau, commission, agency or public  
13 authority of the state or any political subdivision thereof as it may  
14 reasonably request to properly carry out its powers and duties pursuant  
15 to this act. Provided however, any information obtained by the commis-  
16 sion shall be kept confidential and shall only be utilized for the  
17 purpose of completing their responsibilities as a member of the commis-  
18 sion.

19 (e) The commission may request, and shall receive, reasonable assist-  
20 ance from state agency personnel as is necessary for the performance of  
21 its function.

22 3. The commission shall make a report to the governor and the legisla-  
23 ture of its findings, conclusions, determinations and recommendations  
24 and shall submit such report by December 1, 2023.

25 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately. The commission itself, as  
26 created by section one of this act, shall dissolve after the report  
27 required by section one of this act has been submitted.