

STATE OF NEW YORK

7804

IN SENATE

January 11, 2022

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

AN ACT to amend a chapter of the laws of 2021 relating to creating a veterans' suicide prevention temporary task force, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 1788-A and A. 5836-A, in relation to the members of such task force

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

1 Section 1. Subdivisions (a) and (b) of section 2 of a chapter of the
2 laws of 2021 relating to creating a veterans' suicide prevention tempo-
3 rary task force, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 1788-A and
4 A. 5836-A, are amended to read as follows:

5 (a) There is hereby created the veterans' temporary suicide prevention
6 task force to examine, evaluate and determine how to improve mental
7 health and suicide prevention for our veterans, consisting of [~~nine~~]
8 thirteen members, each to serve until May first, two thousand twenty-
9 three.

10 (b)(1) Such members shall include the commissioner of the office of
11 mental health, the director of veterans' services, the commissioner of
12 the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services, and the commis-
13 sioner of health, or their designees, and the remainder of the members
14 shall be appointed as follows: three members shall be appointed by the
15 governor; two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of
16 the senate; one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the
17 senate; two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly;
18 and one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assem-
19 bly. Appointments shall be made within sixty days of the effective date
20 of this act. Vacancies in the temporary task force shall be filled in
21 the manner provided for original appointments.

22 (2) All appointees shall have expertise in fields or disciplines
23 related to mental health and at least three members shall have worked
24 with members of the military or veterans community on a professional
25 basis. All appointments shall be coordinated to ensure geographic repre-
26 sentation from the entire state.

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

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1 (3) The temporary task force shall be chaired by the governor's
2 appointee. The temporary task force shall elect a vice-chair and other
3 necessary officers from among all appointed members.

4 (4) A majority of the members of the temporary task force then in
5 office shall constitute a quorum.

6 (5) The temporary task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call
7 of the chair. Meetings may be held via teleconference. Special meetings
8 may be called by the chair at the request of a majority of the members
9 of the task force.

10 (6) Members of the temporary task force shall receive no compensation
11 for their services but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses
12 incurred in the performance of their duties in the work of the task
13 force.

14 § 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same
15 manner as a chapter of the laws of 2021 relating to creating a veterans'
16 suicide prevention temporary task force, as proposed in legislative
17 bills numbers S. 1788-A and A. 5836-A, takes effect, and shall be deemed
18 to expire therewith.