STATE OF NEW YORK

8060

IN SENATE

January 24, 2022

Introduced by Sens. SANDERS, KRUEGER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to establish the New York state democracy commission; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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

Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds and declares that the American democracy was under attack on January 6, 2021 in the United States Capitol by insurrectionists attempting to overturn the legal election of Joseph Biden for the United States presidency through violence, intimidation and by other means. There is legitimate concern that this attempt to overthrow our democracy will occur again at the federal, state and local levels.

§ 2. 1. A temporary state commission, to be known as the New York state democracy commission, hereinafter referred to as the commission, is hereby created to make recommendations and create a report of its findings relating to issues involving:

a. the state of democracy in New York state;

b. how to protect, strengthen and expand democracy in New York state on the state and local levels;

c. how to expand voter registration and voter turnout;

d. how to strengthen the integrity of the voting process;

e. ways to improve civics education in schools; and

f. how to prevent attempts to illegitimately overturn a lawful election on a local, state and federal level taking into account the events that led up to the January 6, 2021 insurrection in the United States Capitol and events thereafter to undermine American democracy.

2. a. The commission shall consist of thirteen members, to be appointed as follows: six members shall be appointed by the governor; two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly; and

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

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one member shall be the attorney general of New York state. The commission shall be chaired by a member appointed by the governor.

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 under this act. The commission may employ and at pleasure remove such personnel as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions and fix their compensation within the amounts made available by appropriation therefor.

3. The commission may request and shall receive from any agency in the state and from any subdivision, department, board, bureau, commission, office, agency or other instrumentality of the state or of any political subdivision thereof such facilities, assistance and data as it deems necessary or desirable for the proper execution of its powers and duties and to effectuate the purposes set forth in this act.

4. The report shall include any recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary and appropriate and shall be delivered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and posted on the website of the Secretary of State no later than one year after the effective date of this act. The report shall also be posted on the website of the governor.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed 2 years after such date.