

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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1716

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2021

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Introduced by M. of A. JEAN-PIERRE, VANEL, J. RIVERA, EPSTEIN, DARLING, SIMON, ZEBROWSKI, WILLIAMS, SAYEGH, FRONTUS, SCHMITT, McDONOUGH, JOYNER, CRUZ, STECK, RAMOS, FALL, GLICK, FERNANDEZ, TAYLOR, REYES, WEPRIN -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT, M. MILLER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to establish a Black youth suicide prevention task force; 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. Black youth suicide prevention task force. (a) There is  
2 hereby created the Black youth suicide prevention task force to examine,  
3 evaluate and determine how to improve mental health and suicide  
4 prevention for Black New York residents aged 5 through 18 years, consist-  
5 ing of seven members, each to serve until two years after the effective  
6 date of this act.

7 (b)(1) Such members shall be appointed as follows: one member shall be  
8 appointed by the governor; one member shall be appointed by the tempo-  
9 rary president of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the  
10 minority leader of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the  
11 speaker of the assembly; one member shall be appointed by the minority  
12 leader of the assembly; and two members shall be appointed by the  
13 commissioner of mental health. Appointments shall be made within sixty  
14 days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the task force  
15 shall be filled in the same manner provided for original appointments.

16 (2) All appointees shall have expertise in fields or disciplines  
17 related to mental health suicide prevention services, supports and know-  
18 ledge related to the Black community. All appointments shall be coordi-  
19 nated to ensure geographic representation from the entire state.

20 (3) The task force shall be chaired by the governor's appointee. The  
21 task force shall elect a vice-chair by majority vote and other necessary  
22 officers from among all appointed members.

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

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1 (4) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the  
2 chair. Meetings may be held via teleconference. Special meetings may be  
3 called by the chair at the request of a majority of the members of the  
4 task force.

5 (5) Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their  
6 services but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in  
7 the performance of their duties in the work of the task force.

8 (c) The task force shall:

9 (1) study current mental health practices and suicide prevention  
10 efforts for Black youths aged 5 through 18 years;

11 (2) recommend mental health practices and suicide prevention efforts  
12 for such age group to increase effectiveness across the state; and

13 (3) determine potential reasons for the high number of Black youth  
14 suicides.

15 (d) The task force may establish advisory committees as it deems  
16 appropriate on matters relating to the task force's functions, powers  
17 and duties. Such committees shall be chaired by a task force member, but  
18 may be composed of task force members as well as other individuals  
19 selected by the task force to provide expertise of interest specific to  
20 the charge of such committees.

21 (e) The task force may, as it deems appropriate, request that studies,  
22 surveys and analyses relating to the task force's powers and duties be  
23 performed by any state department, commission, agency or public authori-  
24 ty. All state departments, commissions, agencies or public authorities  
25 shall provide information and advice in a timely manner and otherwise  
26 assist the task force with its work; provided however, any information  
27 or records otherwise confidential and privileged in accordance with  
28 state or federal law that are provided to the task force pursuant to  
29 this subdivision shall remain confidential as provided by such state or  
30 federal law and provided, further, that reports of the task force shall  
31 not identify the name or related identifying information concerning  
32 individual persons who are deceased as a result of suicide.

33 (f) The task force shall provide a preliminary report to the governor  
34 and the legislature of its findings, conclusions, recommendations and  
35 activities already undertaken by the task force, not later than thirteen  
36 months after the effective date of this act, and a final report of its  
37 findings, conclusions, recommendations and activities already undertaken  
38 by the task force, not later than twenty-two months after the effective  
39 date of this act and shall submit with its reports legislative proposals  
40 as it deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

41 § 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall  
42 have become a law and shall expire 2 years after such effective date  
43 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.