STATE OF NEW YORK

2659

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. FALL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT establishing a New York state school transition reopening and redesign task force during a national or state pandemic or state of emergency; 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. New York state school transition reopening and redesign taskforce. The New York state school transition reopening and redesign taskforce is hereby established to study and make recommendations concerning the reopening of New York schools during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) state disaster emergency, as declared pursuant to executive order number 202 of 2020.

§ 2. Such task force shall be comprised of school administrators, teachers and agency commissioners or deputy commissioners and consist of twelve members appointed as follows:

(a) two members shall be appointed by the governor; one of these members shall serve as chair of the task force; and the other member shall serve as vice chair of the task force;

(b) one member shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

(c) one member shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

(d) two members shall be appointed by the New York State Board of Regents;

(e) two members shall be appointed by the Commissioner of the New York State Education Department;

(f) two members shall be appointed by the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health;

(g) one member shall be appointed by the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health; and

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

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(h) one member shall be appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Taxation and Finance.

§ 3. All appointments shall be made no later than the thirtieth day after the effective date of this section. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner provided for by the original appointments. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable following the appointment of its members. The chair shall appoint a secretary who shall not be a member of the task force. The members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services.

§ 4. (a) The task force shall study, evaluate and develop recommendations relating to specific actionable measures that address the following areas:

(i) the measures necessary to successfully implement a safe return to school for students, faculty and administration in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control;

(ii) safe transportation of students to and from school;

(iii) the emotional and social components of education provided at a school's physical facility, through remote learning or a combination of both;

(iv) the impact of state and federal funding on school resources;

(v) the impact on a school district's ability to provide students with meals at a school's physical facility or during remote learning; and

(vi) any other issue the task force deems relevant.

(b) The task force shall designate four regional committees to operate throughout the state. One such committee shall be located in and focus on the city of New York. Each committee shall consist of six members selected by the task force chair from local school administrators, teachers, certified school social workers and PTA presidents.

§ 5. The task force shall be entitled to request and receive, and shall utilize such facilities, resources and data of any court, department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof as it may reasonably request to properly carry out its powers and duties.

§ 6. In carrying out its functions, the task force is authorized to conduct public hearings around the state to foster discussions in accordance with article seven of the public officers law, and formal public hearings to solicit input and recommendations from statewide and regional stakeholder interests.

§ 7. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate and the minority leader of the senate three months after the effective date of this act.

§ 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed sixty days after the task force delivers the report described in section seven of this act to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate and the minority leader of the senate.