

STATE OF NEW YORK

968

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend a chapter of the laws of 2020 relating to directing the office of fire prevention and control within the division of homeland security and emergency services to form a task force and issue a report relating to volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.7589-B and A.9779-A, in relation to the New York state volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention task force and to the effectiveness of the provisions thereof

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

1 Section 1. Sections 1 and 2 of a chapter of the laws of 2020 relating
2 to directing the office of fire prevention and control within the divi-
3 sion of homeland security and emergency services to form a task force
4 and issue a report relating to volunteer firefighter recruitment and
5 retention, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.7589-B and
6 A.9779-A, are amended to read as follows:
7 Section 1. New York state volunteer firefighter recruitment and
8 retention task force. There is hereby created the volunteer firefighter
9 recruitment and retention task force whose membership shall consist of
10 the chair to be appointed by the governor; the state fire administrator
11 or his or her designee; the commissioner of education or his or her
12 designee; the chancellor of the state university of New York or his or
13 her designee; the commissioner of taxation and finance or his or her
14 designee; the commissioner of labor or his or her designee; nine members
15 appointed by the governor; the president of the Fireman's Association of
16 the State of New York or his or her designee; the president of the Asso-
17 ciation of Fire Districts or his or her designee; the president of the
18 New York State Association of Fire Chiefs or his or her designee; the

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

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1 president of the New York State Fire Coordinators or his or her desig-
2 nee; two members appointed by the temporary president of the senate; two
3 members appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one member appointed
4 by the minority leader of the senate; and one member appointed by the
5 minority leader of the assembly. The task force shall report to the
6 governor, the speaker of the assembly and the temporary president of the
7 senate no later than one year after the effective date of this act.
8 Such report shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations
9 concerning:

10 1. Firefighter 1 training, and all other firefighter training offered
11 by the office of fire prevention and control, and delivery methods to
12 enhance and streamline training including the use of distance learning;

13 2. The utilization of community colleges, BOCES or state accredited
14 high schools to train firefighters and the creation of pilot programs
15 within community colleges or BOCES that will offer Firefighter 1 certif-
16 ication upon completion;

17 3. The feasibility and necessity of creation of a [~~dedicated~~] bureau
18 within the office of fire prevention and control responsible for
19 recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters;

20 4. Tax incentives and volunteer firefighter benefits currently
21 provided and recommendations as to these or new programs;

22 5. Analysis of current recruitment and retention programs successfully
23 being utilized by other states and recommendations as to adoption of
24 similar programs in New York; and

25 6. Identification and recruitment incentives to assist in the recruit-
26 ment of volunteer firefighters from under-represented and at-risk popu-
27 lations.

28 All appointees of the task force shall be made no later than [~~thirty~~]
29 sixty days after the effective date of this act. Any vacancy shall be
30 filled by the appointing authority. The task force shall meet as
31 frequently as deemed necessary prior to issuing its recommendations. The
32 members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except that
33 members shall be allowed their necessary and actual expenses incurred in
34 the performance of their duties under this section. The office of fire
35 prevention and control within the department of homeland security and
36 emergency services shall provide the task force with such facilities,
37 assistance, and data as will enable such task force to carry out its
38 powers and duties within reason.

39 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be
40 deemed repealed [~~December 31, 2021~~] April 1, 2022.

41 § 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same
42 manner as a chapter of the laws of 2020 relating to directing the office
43 of fire prevention and control within the division of homeland security
44 and emergency services to form a task force and issue a report relating
45 to volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention, as proposed in
46 legislative bills numbers S.7589-B and A.9779-A, takes effect.