STATE OF NEW YORK

2020

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 16, 2021

Introduced by Sen. JACKSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to establish the differentiated learning environment 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:

Section 1. The legislature hereby establishes the differentiated learning environment task force, referred to hereinafter as the "task force", to conduct a comprehensive study on the way colleges and universities are preparing future teachers to work in urban settings and to offer differentiated classrooms.

§ 2. For the purposes of this act the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Differentiated learning environment" shall mean learning methods designed to address individual students' diverse learning needs; and

(b) "Language-based learning differences" shall mean developmental or learning disabilities where a student has a problem or problems with age-appropriate reading, spelling, writing and/or math.

§ 3. Such task force shall consist of eleven members with demonstrated experience in issues relating to the work of the task force. The members of the task force shall be appointed as follows:

(a) two members shall be appointed by the governor;

(b) two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

(c) two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

(d) one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly;

(e) one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

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

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(f) two members shall be appointed by the chancellor of the board of regents; and

(g) one member shall be the commissioner of the department of education or their designee.

§ 4. The task force shall be chaired by the commissioner of the department of education or their designee. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in the work of the task force.

§ 5. Appointments shall be made within 60 days of the effective date of this act. Any vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner provided for in the initial appointment.

§ 6. The task force may consult with any organization, government entity, or person, in the development of its report required under section seven of this act.

§ 7. On or before one year after the effective date of this act, the task force shall submit to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly a report containing, but not limited to:

(a) A dual certification process for teachers to be certified in both special education and language-based learning differences; and

(b) A comprehensive professional development training program for persons who are teachers and those who are studying to be teachers to learn the basics of differentiated learning environments.

§ 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire 24 months after it shall have become a law when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.