STATE OF NEW YORK

2684--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 22, 2021

Introduced by Sen. BROOKS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to establish a task force on education funding and property tax reform

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

Section 1. Task force on education funding and property tax reform. 1. There is hereby created a task force on education funding and property tax reform in New York state within the state education department. The purpose of the task force shall be to conduct a comprehensive study and provide recommendations on education funding and the role of property taxes in funding New York's education system to ensure an effective, efficient, and equitable system of funding public education. The task force shall review and offer recommendations on the following:

(a) the current reliance on property taxes to fund New York's education system, including its impact on taxpayers and high-need school districts;

(b) district-specific factors, such as the impact of regional costs and student need in education funding;

(c) federal changes which impact property taxes, including but not limited to, the federal cap on the state and local tax deduction;

(d) community and school district income and wealth as it relates to local property taxes;

(e) the use of property taxes to fund education in other states;

(f) spending disparities among neighboring school districts; and

(g) additional relevant factors that the task force deems necessary.

2. (a) The task force shall consist of seventeen members as follows:

(i) the commissioner of education or his or her designee, who shall serve as chair of the task force;

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

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(ii) four people appointed by the governor;
(iii) four people appointed by the temporary president of the senate;
(iv) four people appointed by the speaker of the assembly; and
(v) four people appointed by the commissioner of education.

(b) All appointments of members of the task force shall be made no later than thirty days after the effective date of this act. The task force may begin its duties when a majority of the total number of positions have been appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. The members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services.

3. The task force shall make a report to the governor, temporary president of the senate and speaker of the assembly of its findings, conclusions and recommendations on or before December 31, 2022.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.