

STATE OF NEW YORK

5230

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 26, 2021

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to establish a task force on the condition of African American men in New York state

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

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that African
2 American men: (a) are disproportionately less likely to complete high
3 school and to obtain a post-secondary education; (b) are more likely to
4 be incarcerated or on parole; (c) are more likely to have lower lifetime
5 economic earnings; (d) are more likely to have been a part of the child
6 welfare population; (e) are more likely to have a shorter life expectan-
7 cy; and (f) are more likely to have health problems, such as HIV/AIDS,
8 drug dependency, heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. The legislature
9 additionally finds that the state of New York has a compelling interest
10 in determining the causes of these problems and in developing appropri-
11 ate remedies.

12 § 2. The New York state task force on the condition of African Ameri-
13 can men is hereby established. The role of the task force includes but
14 is not limited to:

15 (a) assessing the causal factors for the condition of African American
16 men;

17 (b) assessing state programs and initiatives that serve to improve the
18 condition of African American men and identifying the gaps in such
19 services;

20 (c) developing strategies to reduce duplication of services and to
21 maximize coordination between state agencies, providers and educational
22 institutions, including developing benchmarks to measure progress; and

23 (d) preparing a report for submission to the governor and the legisla-
24 ture that provides specific recommendations regarding existing state

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

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1 laws, regulations, programs, policies, and practices relating to the
2 condition of African American men in the state.

3 § 3. The task force shall issue its findings, in the form of a report,
4 no later than December 31, 2022.

5 § 4. The task force shall consist of 17 members and shall include the
6 commissioner of temporary and disability assistance, the commissioner of
7 children and family services, the commissioner of corrections and commu-
8 nity supervision, the commissioner of economic development, the commis-
9 sioner of health, the commissioner of human rights, the commissioner of
10 education, the commissioner of labor and the chancellor of the state
11 university of New York, or a designee of any of such officers. The
12 remaining eight shall be appointed, within 60 days of the effective date
13 of this act, as follows: two shall be appointed by the temporary presi-
14 dent of the senate; two shall be appointed by the minority leader of the
15 senate; two shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; and two
16 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. The member
17 from the office of temporary and disability assistance shall serve as
18 the director of the task force and he or she may assign staff as is
19 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Task force
20 members shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be
21 reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their
22 duties.

23 § 5. The task force may consult with any organization, educational
24 institution, governmental agency, or person, that advocates for African
25 American men.

26 § 6. The director of the task force may reconvene the task force, with
27 the same or different members, after issuance of the report, to address
28 any further issues associated with the condition of African American men
29 in New York state.

30 § 7. All departments or agencies of the state or subdivisions thereof
31 shall, at the request of the director, provide the task force with such
32 facilities, assistance, and data as will enable the task force to carry
33 out its powers and duties.

34 § 8. This act shall take effect immediately.