STATE OF NEW YORK

7239

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

June 8, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the public officers law, in relation to disclosure related to appointments by the governor and senate

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

Section 1. The public officers law is amended by adding a new section 7-a to read as follows:

§ 7-a. Disclosure related to appointments by the governor and senate. 1. The governor, temporary president of the senate, and senate minority leader shall jointly develop a questionnaire to be filled out and completed by any applicant for appointment to an office by the governor by and with the advice and consent of the senate. The questionnaire shall be developed by September thirtieth, two thousand twenty-one, and may be amended thereafter jointly by the governor, temporary president of the senate, and senate minority leader. After the questionnaire is developed, the questionnaire shall be publicly posted on the public facing website of the governor and senate.

2. The questionnaire jointly developed by the governor, temporary president of the senate, and senate minority leader shall include, but not be limited to, questions about the following subject matters:

(a) Name, address, social security number, home telephone number, business telephone number, cellular number, email address;

(b) Biographical information including: date of birth, place of birth, whether name has changed since birth, citizenship status;

(c) Marital status including: information regarding any current or former spouse; status of any child support or maintenance obligations;

(d) Prior residences for the prior five years;

(e) Information about employment history for at least the prior ten years, including information about any involuntary terminations;

(f) Information about educational history;

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

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(g) Information about professional certifications;
(h) Information about military service;
(i) Information about affiliations with organizations;
(j) Information about published works, speeches and awards;
(k) References;
(l) Conflicts of interest, including conflicts related to immediate family members, direct and indirect financial conflicts of interest, and conflicts related to current and prior employment;
(m) Judgment or tax liabilities;
(n) Bankruptcies;
(o) Criminal history;
(p) Relevant experience; and
(q) Any additional disclosures agreed to by the governor and temporary president of the senate.

3. The governor, temporary president of the senate, and senate minority leader shall jointly develop a standardized disclosure document for every applicant for appointment to an office by the governor by and with the advice and consent of the senate. Such disclosure document shall provide information about the findings of any investigations into the background of every applicant, including verification of their responses to questions in the jointly developed questionnaire. The standardized disclosure document shall be developed by September thirtieth, two thousand twenty-one, and may be amended jointly by the governor, temporary president of the senate, and senate minority leader. After the questionnaire is developed, the questionnaire shall be publicly posted on the public facing website of the governor and senate.

4. Beginning September thirtieth, two thousand twenty-one, when an appointment to an office by the governor by and with the advice and consent of the senate is communicated, in the form of a written nomination of a person for the office, the governor shall provide a copy of the jointly developed questionnaire completed by the nominee and a copy of the completed disclosure document for such nominee to the senate. The temporary president of the senate shall ensure that such completed questionnaire and disclosure document is shared electronically with all members of the senate within seven days of when the nomination is sent.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.