STATE OF NEW YORK

7804

IN SENATE

January 11, 2022

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

AN ACT to amend a chapter of the laws of 2021 relating to creating a veterans' suicide prevention temporary task force, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 1788-A and A. 5836-A, in relation to the members of such task force

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

Section 1. Subdivisions (a) and (b) of section 2 of a chapter of the laws of 2021 relating to creating a veterans' suicide prevention temporary task force, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 1788-A and A. 5836-A, are amended to read as follows:

(a) There is hereby created the veterans' temporary suicide prevention task force to examine, evaluate and determine how to improve mental health and suicide prevention for our veterans, consisting of [~~nine~~] **thirteen** members, each to serve until May first, two thousand twenty-three.

(b)(1) Such members **shall include the commissioner of the office of mental health, the director of veterans' services, the commissioner of the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services, and the commissioner of health, or their designees, and the remainder of the members** shall be appointed as follows: three members shall be appointed by the governor; two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; and one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. Appointments shall be made within sixty days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the temporary task force shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

(2) All appointees shall have expertise in fields or disciplines related to mental health and at least three members shall have worked with members of the military or veterans community on a professional basis. All appointments shall be coordinated to ensure geographic representation from the entire state.

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

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(3) The temporary task force shall be chaired by the governor's appointee. The temporary task force shall elect a vice-chair and other necessary officers from among all appointed members.

(4) A majority of the members of the temporary task force then in office shall constitute a quorum.

(5) The temporary task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the chair. Meetings may be held via teleconference. Special meetings may be called by the chair at the request of a majority of the members of the task force.

(6) Members of the temporary 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.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2021 relating to creating a veterans' suicide prevention temporary task force, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 1788-A and A. 5836-A, takes effect, and shall be deemed to expire therewith.