# STATE OF NEW YORK

5870

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

# IN ASSEMBLY

March 23, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. JENSEN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT in relation to enacting the "task force on early childhood education in public education" to create a task force to study the feasibility of incorporating younger age levels into the state public education system and extending the public education system to start at the age of six months and incorporate aspects of childcare and early childhood education into the existing public education system

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "task force on early childhood education in public education".

§ 2. Task force on early childhood education in public education; establishment and duties. There is hereby created the task force on early childhood education in public education. Such task force shall study the state of public education, options and challenges for incorporating younger students into the public education system, at grade levels prior to pre-kindergarten, and examine how the state can better meet the existing and projected needs of childcare and special education for New Yorkers at a younger age then is currently provided for in the public education system in ways that address educational needs, staffing levels and availability, available resources, physical infrastructure needs, and affordability, and enhance the quality of education and childcare for those above the age of six months. In carrying out its task, the task force shall consider the full continuum of educational and childcare services available to New Yorkers, including, but not limited to, community-based services, culturally and linguistically relevant education and childcare providers, community and school-based early intervention services and providers. The task force shall study the limitations currently hampering childcare, both in home-based and facility-based settings, and consider potential models for improvement

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

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though incorporation into the public education system. In addition, the task force shall study the challenges and issues generated by adding more students and younger grade levels to the public education system, including, but not limited to, staffing levels, availability of physical space, costs to school districts, taxpayers and New York state, and other factors that affect the delivery of educational services to students at younger ages. The task force shall utilize the findings of its study on the impact of early childhood education, public education and childcare to determine feasibility and formulate recommendations on if and how such incorporation of young age and grade levels into the public education system can address concerns related to access and affordability of childcare, educational outcomes of students throughout the continuum of education, and access to early intervention and special education services.

§ 3. Membership. (a) The task force on early childhood education in public education shall consist of 25 members as follows:

(i) the commissioner of education, or their designee;

(ii) the commissioner of the office of children and family services, or their designee;

(iii) the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities, or their designee;

(iv) the executive director of the council of children and families, or their designee;

(v) the budget director of the division of budget, or their designee;

(vi) two members appointed by the governor;

(vii) two members appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

(viii) two members appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

(ix) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

(x) one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly;

(xi) one member appointed by the state comptroller;

(xii) the chancellor of the New York city department of education, or their designee;

(xiii) one representative of the New York state council of school superintendents;

(xiv) one representative of the New York state school boards association;

(xv) one representative of the New York state parent teacher association;

(xvi) one representative of New York state united teachers;

(xvii) one representative of the united federation of teachers;

(xviii) one representative of the conference of big 5 school districts;

(xix) one representative of the early care & learning council;

(xx) one representative of the New York association for the education of young children;

(xxi) one representative of the day care council of New York; and

(xii) one representative of the ECE on the move.

(b) Members of the task force shall broadly represent educational, early childhood, and childcare interests, including persons with expertise in public education, persons with expertise in addressing disparities based on race, ethnicity, and disability in education and childcare, childcare and special education service providers, teachers and education workers, community-based services, and/or representatives of public education, including school administrators, elected school board representatives, and parents.

(c) The commissioner of education, or their designee, shall serve as chairperson of the task force.

(d) No member of the task force shall be disqualified from holding any other public office or employment, nor shall he or she forfeit any such office or employment by reason of his or her appointment pursuant to this act, notwithstanding the provisions of any general, special or local law, ordinance or city charter.

(e) The members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this act.

§ 4. Assistance from state and local agencies. All departments and agencies of the state or subdivisions thereof, and local governments of this state shall, at the request of the chairperson, provide the task force such facilities, assistance and data to enable the task force to carry out its duties pursuant to this act.

§ 5. Reports. (a) The task force shall report the findings of its study with respect to the incorporation of students starting at the age of six months in public education to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, minority leader of the senate, and minority leader of the assembly on or before six months after the effective date of this act. Such report shall include recommendations for further action and legislation.

(b) The task force shall report the findings of its full study to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate, and minority leader of the assembly on or before one year after the effective date of this act. Such report shall include recommendations for further action and legislation.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.