STATE OF NEW YORK

9119

IN ASSEMBLY

February 7, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to establishing the mandatory reporting of child abuse and maltreatment task force; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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

Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 371-c to read as follows:

§ 371-c. Mandatory reporting of child abuse and maltreatment task force. 1. The mandatory reporting of child abuse and maltreatment task force is hereby established to examine, evaluate, and make recommendations concerning the child welfare system and the mandatory reporting of child abuse and maltreatment.

2. The task force shall consist of ten members to be appointed as follows:

(a) three members appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

(b) three members appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

(c) two members appointed by the governor;

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

(e) one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly.

3. The members of the task force shall each have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and maltreatment and may have expertise in the following: lived experience with the child welfare system; providing community-based supports for families with child welfare system involvement; legal expertise in the child welfare system; parent advocates; social work or case management; or relevant health or mental health expertise.

4. Vacancies in the task force shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments. All appointments shall be coordinated to ensure geographic representation from the entire state. A majority of the members of the task force then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business or the exercise of any power or function

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

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of the task force. The task force shall convene no later than one hundred twenty days following the effective date of this section and may meet as frequently as its business may require, which may include meetings via teleconference. Special meetings may be called at the request of a majority of the members of the task force.

5. 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.

6. The task force shall perform the following duties:

(a) evaluate the list of professionals required to report suspected cases of child abuse and maltreatment under section four hundred thirteen of this chapter;

(b) assess the statutory obligations for professionals required to report suspected cases of child abuse and maltreatment under section four hundred thirteen of this chapter, including penalties for failure to report, and its potential impact on health and human services providers' ability to carry out their professional duties;

(c) provide recommendations on best practices to support families to prevent child welfare system involvement;

(d) determine best practices for mitigating any adverse childhood experiences incurred as a result of child welfare system involvement; and

(e) provide any other recommendations the task force deems necessary to improve the child welfare system to support children and families in the state.

7. The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, temporary president of the senate, speaker of the assembly, minority leader of the senate, minority leader of the assembly, chair of the senate children and families committee and chair of the assembly children and families committee, no later than December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-five.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire December 31, 2026, when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.