STATE OF NEW YORK

6476--A

Cal. No. 1207

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 21, 2023

Introduced by Sen. GONZALEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Internet and Technology -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT directing a state agency telework report

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 "State agency telework report act".

§ 2. Legislative intent. The legislature takes notice of the growing practice of the use of telework as a future form of work away from the principal place of employment. Telecommuting is being used more and more by businesses as a way to save money for employers by reducing contributions to workers' compensation premiums, allowing more freedom for a balance between work and family life for employees, reducing air pollution and traffic congestion, reducing absenteeism, and accommodating those who are disabled.

Teleworking warrants further research to enable the state to move a step closer to using it as a way to save taxpayer's money, while also benefiting the state and its employees.

§ 3. Definitions. As used in this act, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "State agency" means any state department, board, bureau, division, commission, committee, public authority, public benefit corporation, council, office, or other governmental entity performing a governmental or proprietary function for the state.

(b) "Telework" means to perform normal and regular work functions on a workday that ordinarily would be performed at the state agency's official principal location or locations, at a different location.

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

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§ 4. State agency telework report. (a) Each state agency shall submit a report to the department of civil service by July 1, 2024 which shall contain the following:

(i) Number of employees that teleworked in 2023;

(ii) Job titles that teleworked in 2023;

(iii) Number of days teleworked by anonymized employee in 2023;

(iv) Number of days teleworked by job title in 2023;

(v) Any benefits of telework remarked by the agency;

(vi) Any disadvantages of telework remarked by the agency; and

(vii) A copy of the agency's official telework policy, if any, including how employees and job titles are chosen for telework.

In addition, each state agency shall allow employees to anonymously submit their opinions of the agency's telecommuting policy, or lack thereof, which the agencies shall include in the telework state agency report due to the department of civil service and which shall be summarized in the finalized report compiled by the department of civil service pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section.

(b) On or before September 1, 2024 the department of civil service shall provide a report compiling all the agency telework reports and submit such compiled report to the speaker of the assembly and the temporary president of the senate.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.