STATE OF NEW YORK

8379--A

IN SENATE

January 25, 2024

Introduced by Sen. RAMOS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Disabilities -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT in relation to establishing the task force to promote the employment of people with disabilities

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

Section 1. 1. (a) There is hereby established, in the department of labor, a task force to promote competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities. The task force shall consist of 16 members to be appointed by the governor as follows:

(i) a representative from the department of civil service;

(ii) a representative from the department of education's office of adult career and continuing education services;

(iii) a representative from the department of labor;

(iv) a representative from the office of the state comptroller;

(v) a representative from the office for people with developmental disabilities;

(vi) a representative from the office of mental health;

(vii) a representative from the office of strategic workforce development;

(viii) a representative from the office of the chief disability officer;

(ix) a representative of organized labor appointed upon recommendation of the New York State American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations;

(x) a representative of the business community appointed upon recommendation of the Business Council of New York State, Incorporated;

(xi) an individual upon recommendation of the speaker of the assembly;

(xii) an individual upon recommendation of the temporary president of the senate;

(xiii) two representatives of employment services providers for people with disabilities; and

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

LBD10281-03-4

(xiv) two individuals with a disability.

(b) The representative from the department of labor shall serve as the chair of the task force.

2. The appointed members of the task force shall serve for terms of 3 years. Vacancies in the membership of the appointed members of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

3. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the task force.

4. The task force shall organize as soon as possible after the appointments are made. The task force shall meet at least quarterly in a calendar year, may hold meetings and hearings at places and times as it designates, and may meet at any other times at the call of the chairperson. No action shall be taken by the task force except by an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members.

§ 2. 1. (a) The purpose of the task force is to study the problem of unemployment and underemployment among individuals with disabilities, and review relevant programs within New York and other states that assist in the employment of individuals with disabilities in the public and/or private sectors.

(b) The task force shall:

(i) examine strategies to increase competitive integrated employment of people with disabilities;

(ii) support the goals of competitive integrated employment, equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for these individuals;

(iii) ensure that state government is a model employer of individuals with disabilities;

(iv) promote state efforts to disseminate information to workers on state and federal programs that assist individuals with disabilities in seeking and maintaining employment;

(v) assist in the identification and implementation of strategies to expand efforts of New York state and local government agencies to recruit, hire, and retain in employment individuals with disabilities; and

(vi) coordinate and provide leadership, as necessary, with regard to efforts to increase inclusion in the workforce of individuals with disabilities.

2. No later than two years after the appointment of its members, the task force shall prepare and submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly. Such report shall provide recommendations on the ways in which the state can increase competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities. Such recommendations shall address the topics set forth in this section. Each annual report shall be made publicly accessible on the websites of the state agencies represented on the task force.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.