

# 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:

- 1 Section 1. 1. (a) There is hereby established, in the department of  
2 labor, a task force to promote competitive integrated employment for  
3 people with disabilities. The task force shall consist of 16 members to  
4 be appointed by the governor as follows:
- 5 (i) a representative from the department of civil service;
  - 6 (ii) a representative from the department of education's office of  
7 adult career and continuing education services;
  - 8 (iii) a representative from the department of labor;
  - 9 (iv) a representative from the office of the state comptroller;
  - 10 (v) a representative from the office for people with developmental  
11 disabilities;
  - 12 (vi) a representative from the office of mental health;
  - 13 (vii) a representative from the office of strategic workforce develop-  
14 ment;
  - 15 (viii) a representative from the office of the chief disability offi-  
16 cer;
  - 17 (ix) a representative of organized labor appointed upon recommendation  
18 of the New York State American Federation of Labor-Congress of Indus-  
19 trial Organizations;
  - 20 (x) a representative of the business community appointed upon recom-  
21 mendation of the Business Council of New York State, Incorporated;
  - 22 (xi) an individual upon recommendation of the speaker of the assembly;
  - 23 (xii) an individual upon recommendation of the temporary president of  
24 the senate;
  - 25 (xiii) two representatives of employment services providers for people  
26 with disabilities; and

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

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1 (xiv) two individuals with a disability.

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

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

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

10 4. The task force shall organize as soon as possible after the  
11 appointments are made. The task force shall meet at least quarterly in a  
12 calendar year, may hold meetings and hearings at places and times as it  
13 designates, and may meet at any other times at the call of the chair-  
14 person. No action shall be taken by the task force except by an affirma-  
15 tive vote of a majority of the voting members.

16 § 2. 1. (a) The purpose of the task force is to study the problem of  
17 unemployment and underemployment among individuals with disabilities,  
18 and review relevant programs within New York and other states that  
19 assist in the employment of individuals with disabilities in the public  
20 and/or private sectors.

21 (b) The task force shall:

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

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

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

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

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

36 (vi) coordinate and provide leadership, as necessary, with regard to  
37 efforts to increase inclusion in the workforce of individuals with disa-  
38 bilities.

39 2. No later than two years after the appointment of its members, the  
40 task force shall prepare and submit a report to the governor, the tempo-  
41 rary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly. Such  
42 report shall provide recommendations on the ways in which the state can  
43 increase competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabil-  
44 ities. Such recommendations shall address the topics set forth in this  
45 section. Each annual report shall be made publicly accessible on the  
46 websites of the state agencies represented on the task force.

47 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.