

# STATE OF NEW YORK

9138

## IN SENATE

April 30, 2024

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to establishing the interagency elder justice task force; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. The elder law is amended by adding a new section 226 to  
2 read as follows:

3 § 226. Interagency elder justice task force. 1. There is hereby  
4 created within the office an interagency elder justice task force  
5 consisting of representatives of state agencies whose work involves  
6 elder justice to create greater collaboration and develop overarching  
7 strategies, systems, and programs, with the goal of protecting older  
8 adults from abuse and mistreatment. The task force shall collaborate to  
9 identify consistent policies and programs in elder justice; and, facili-  
10 tate communication and foster collaborative relationships among state  
11 agencies.

12 2. The task force shall consist of the following members or their  
13 designees:

14 (a) the director of the office for the aging, who shall serve as  
15 chair;

16 (b) the director of the office of victims services;

17 (c) the commissioner of the office of children and family services;

18 (d) the superintendent of financial services;

19 (e) the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services;

20 (f) the commissioner of mental health;

21 (g) the director of the office for the prevention of domestic  
22 violence;

23 (h) the commissioner of health;

24 (i) the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disa-  
25 bilities;

26 (j) the superintendent of the New York state police;

27 (k) the executive director of the justice center for the protection  
28 of people with special needs;

29 (l) the secretary of state for the department of state's division of  
30 consumer protection;

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

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- 1 (m) two members appointed by the governor;  
2 (n) one member appointed by the speaker of the assembly; and  
3 (o) one member appointed by the temporary president of the senate.

4 3. The task force shall request input from stakeholders, advocates,  
5 experts, and coalitions.

6 4. Members appointed to the task force shall have relevant experience  
7 and expertise concerning elder justice by virtue of their education,  
8 training or lived experience.

9 5. The task force shall:

10 (a) develop a cohesive, comprehensive state plan on elder justice that  
11 aligns with New York state's elder justice policy and programs across  
12 state agency responsibilities;

13 (b) develop plans for a coordinated and comprehensive response from  
14 state and local government and other entities when elder abuse is  
15 reported;

16 (c) facilitate interagency planning and policy development on elder  
17 justice;

18 (d) review and propose specific agency initiatives for their impact on  
19 systems and services related to elder justice;

20 (e) coordinate activities for world elder abuse awareness day and  
21 other events;

22 (f) inform local and state agencies on national developments in elder  
23 justice; and

24 (g) make recommendations to the governor that will improve New York's  
25 elder abuse prevention and intervention efforts.

26 6. The task force shall serve to focus attention on elder justice  
27 comprehensively and create a multidisciplinary mechanism to work toward  
28 alignment across agencies to help achieve the governor's elder justice  
29 priorities.

30 7. The task force shall meet regularly, but no less than once per  
31 month and where otherwise appropriate to fulfill its duties under this  
32 chapter. The members of this task force shall serve without compen-  
33 sation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all necessary  
34 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

35 8. Any vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled  
36 in the same manner provided for in the initial appointment.

37 9. The members of the task force shall be appointed no later than one  
38 hundred and twenty days after the effective date of this section.

39 § 2. Within one year of the effective date of this act, in carrying  
40 out its functions, the interagency elder justice task force shall hold  
41 five public hearings around the state to foster discussions and conduct  
42 formal public hearings with requisite public notice to solicit input and  
43 recommendations from statewide and regional stakeholder interests. Such  
44 task force shall also accept public input in writing. Such task force  
45 may utilize remote access such as web conferencing to comply with the  
46 provisions of this section.

47 § 3. Within two years of the effective date of this act the interagen-  
48 cy elder justice task force shall report its findings and recommenda-  
49 tions to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the  
50 speaker of the assembly and shall publicize its findings on the office  
51 for the aging website.

52 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be  
53 deemed repealed 3 years after such effective date.