STATE OF NEW YORK

10628

IN ASSEMBLY

June 20, 2024

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Bichotte Hermelyn) -- read once and referred 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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) the superintendent of financial services;

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

(f) the commissioner of mental health;

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

(h) the commissioner of health;

(i) the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities;

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

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

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

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

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(m) two members appointed by the governor;
(n) one member appointed by the speaker of the assembly; and
(o) one member appointed by the temporary president of the senate.
3. The task force shall request input from stakeholders, advocates, experts, and coalitions.
4. Members appointed to the task force shall have relevant experience and expertise concerning elder justice by virtue of their education, training or lived experience.
5. The task force shall:
(a) develop a cohesive, comprehensive state plan on elder justice that aligns with New York state's elder justice policy and programs across state agency responsibilities;
(b) develop plans for a coordinated and comprehensive response from state and local government and other entities when elder abuse is reported;
(c) facilitate interagency planning and policy development on elder justice;
(d) review and propose specific agency initiatives for their impact on systems and services related to elder justice;
(e) coordinate activities for world elder abuse awareness day and other events;
(f) inform local and state agencies on national developments in elder justice; and
(g) make recommendations to the governor that will improve New York's elder abuse prevention and intervention efforts.
6. The task force shall serve to focus attention on elder justice comprehensively and create a multidisciplinary mechanism to work toward alignment across agencies to help achieve the governor's elder justice priorities.
7. The task force shall meet regularly, but no less than once per month and where otherwise appropriate to fulfill its duties under this chapter. The members of this task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
8. Any vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner provided for in the initial appointment.
9. The members of the task force shall be appointed no later than one hundred and twenty days after the effective date of this section.

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

§ 3. Within two years of the effective date of this act the interagency elder justice task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly and shall publicize its findings on the office for the aging website.

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