STATE OF NEW YORK

5933

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 24, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. GONZALEZ-ROJAS, MITAYNES, RAGA, EPSTEIN, BICHOTTE HERMELYN, KELLES, GIBBS, TAPIA, MAMDANI, ARDILA, SIMONE, DE LOS SANTOS, ROZIC, GALLAGHER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT in relation to establishing a task force to study the feasibility of a state-funded SNAP; 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. a. A task force is hereby established to examine, evaluate and determine the feasibility of establishing a state-funded version of SNAP. The task force shall:

(i) gather and assess what quantitative data already exists on undocumented families in New York and collect any additional data that is needed, in order to understand the scope, impact and cost of operating a statewide food for all program, including, but not limited to:

(1) the number of undocumented families in the state, including the status of such families (i.e. DACA, asylum seekers, refugees), the number of such families that are experiencing hunger, and the number of such families that are currently excluded from SNAP due to their immigration status or other requirements from SNAP;

(2) the demographics of the population of undocumented individuals by age, income levels, unemployment levels, languages spoken, and location;

(3) an estimate of the amount of tax revenue undocumented New Yorkers contribute to the state;

(4) the number of children in the state who live with at least one undocumented parent;

(5) the annual healthcare savings as a result of being enrolled in SNAP; and

(6) the number of New Yorkers who have been lifted out of poverty due to SNAP;

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

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(ii) convene relevant stakeholders to ensure all components of a food for all New York program are considered and on-the-ground community voices are heard, including, but not limited to:

(1) local and national immigrant rights groups;

(2) anti-hunger organizations, with an emphasis on those organizations that enroll people in nutrition benefit programs;

(3) food security advocates;

(4) groups with experience operating similar programs across the country;

(5) research experts from state universities with expertise on immigration and public health who could help with data collection;

(6) local government entities and social services divisions;

(7) representatives from the governor's office, the office of temporary and disability assistance, the division of budget, the department of agriculture and markets, the department of health, the department of labor, and the office of emergency management;

(iii) analyze the viability of different program models;

(iv) estimate the cost of administering the program in the state and show the projected impact on the state's economy based on SNAP return on investment;

(v) create an implementation outreach plan to reach qualifying families, including costs, outreach tactics, and consideration of how to meet language needs, what additional data is needed, and how to address any privacy or data concerns; and

(vi) use the findings and stakeholder input to develop and release a policy brief which shall include policy and programmatic recommendations for how to create, administer, and sustain a Food for All NY program in New York.

b. No later than one year after the effective date of this act, the task force shall report its findings and submit the policy brief to the governor and the legislature, as described in subdivision a of this section.

§ 2. a. The task force shall be comprised of:

(i) one member appointed by the governor;

(ii) two members appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

(iii) two members appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

(iv) two members appointed by the office of temporary and disability assistance;

(v) one member from the department of state;

(vi) one member from the department of health; and

(vii) one member from the department of agriculture and markets.

b. The member appointed by the governor shall serve as chairperson of the task force.

c. The members appointed from the department of state, department of health, and the department of agriculture and markets shall serve ex-officio and shall be non-voting members.

d. The members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their services.

e. All departments, divisions, bureaus, commissions, districts or agencies of the state or any political subdivisions thereof shall, at the request of the chairperson, provide the task force with such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the task force to carry out its powers and duties.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.