

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7870

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

July 7, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing a division of early childhood within the office of children and family services

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

Section 1. Section 500 of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 4 to read as follows:

4. (a) There is hereby established within the office of children and family services a division of early childhood. The division shall be under the direction of the commissioner of the office of children and family services. The division of early childhood shall be headed by the director of early childhood who shall be appointed by a committee composed of the governor or his or her designee, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the assembly and the minority leader of the senate.

(b) The primary duties of the division of early childhood are to coordinate, consolidate and integrate early childhood programs, in order to administer programs and funding as efficiently as possible. The division's duties shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(i) to develop, coordinate and support public and private partnerships to aid early childhood programs across the state;

(ii) to work cooperatively and in coordination with the early childhood advisory council;

(iii) to collaborate with the education department to ensure proper and appropriate connections and smooth transitions between early childhood programs and kindergarten through grade twelve programs;

(iv) to coordinate the delivery of services for young children and their families to ensure the state is utilizing all available funding streams in a unified fashion; and

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

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1 (v) to perform any other activities that will assist in the division  
2 of early childhood programs and services.

3 (c) The director of early childhood shall be responsible for imple-  
4 menting the policies and directives of the division of early childhood.  
5 The director may seek and shall be entitled to receive from other state  
6 agencies such assistance as may be required to perform such director's  
7 duties pursuant to this subdivision. The director may appoint such offi-  
8 cers, employees, agents and consultants as he or she may deem necessary.  
9 To the extent practicable, the director shall appoint the officers,  
10 employees, agents and consultants for the division of early childhood,  
11 from among the existing officers and employees of the office of children  
12 and family services.

13 (d) On or before January first, two thousand twenty-four, the division  
14 of early childhood shall begin a statewide assessment and evaluation of  
15 the current funding streams for the state. The division shall, on or  
16 before October first, two thousand twenty-four, provide to the governor  
17 and the legislature programmatic and legislative recommendations, based  
18 on its statewide assessment and evaluation.

19 (e) The division of early childhood shall submit to the governor and  
20 legislature, within one year of the effective date of this subdivision,  
21 a report as the various early childhood programs that are available in  
22 the state. The report shall include recommendations and an action plan  
23 to further consolidate and coordinate early childhood programs and fund-  
24 ing sources that support these programs.

25 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.