STATE OF NEW YORK

8545

IN ASSEMBLY

January 8, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. REYES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend a chapter of the laws of 2023 establishing a task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and people of color, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4266-A and A. 5088-A, in relation to directing the division of criminal justice services to establish a task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and people of color; and to repeal certain provisions of such law related thereto

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

Section 1. Section 1 of a chapter of the laws of 2023 establishing a task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and people of color, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4266-A and A. 5088-A, is REPEALED.

§ 2. Sections 2 and 3 of a chapter of the laws of 2023 establishing a task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and people of color, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4266-A and A. 5088-A, are renumbered sections 1 and 2 and section 1 is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. a. [~~There is hereby established~~] **The division of criminal justice services, in conjunction with the office for the prevention of domestic violence, shall convene** a task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). Such task force shall be composed of the commissioner of the office of family and children's services, the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services, **the executive director of the office for the prevention of domestic violence,** the superintendent of state police, **the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability assistance, the commissioner of the department of health, the director of the office of victim services, the commissioner of the office of mental health, the commissioner of the department of labor, and the commissioner of the department of transportation** or [~~the~~] **their** designees [~~of such commissioners and superintendent~~]. Additional members shall be appointed as follows,

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

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two shall be appointed by the governor, two shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate, two shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly, one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate, and one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. Members shall be representative of the communities experiencing this crisis, including directly impacted individuals, reflect the diversity of New York state, and have experience in cultural competency.

b. Task force members shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

c. [~~The task force shall:~~

~~(i) develop policy changes that will work to address the lack of care and concern for missing and murdered BIPOC women and girls with New York state governmental agencies, including identifying policies to ensure first responders are culturally competent;~~

~~(ii) advance the knowledge of communities on the severity of BIPOC women and girls who are missing and murdered;~~

~~(iii) ensure BIPOC communities are educated and trained on the prevention, protection, and protocols relating to missing BIPOC women and girls as it relates to social media;~~

~~(iv) develop a strategy to collect statistics, demographics, surveys, oral histories, and data analysis;~~

~~(v) recommend preventive programming and ideas to advance the safety of women and girls, including policies that address the overlapping forms of oppression faced by BIPOC women and girls;~~

~~(vi) identify major traffic hubs, highways, and resource extraction sites that lead to or are responsible for the facilitation of the abduction of BIPOC women and girls; and~~

~~(vii) create a state-wide awareness campaign.~~

~~d. In carrying out the duties of the task force, such task force shall seek public input by holding public hearings in each region of the state and accepting public input in writing.~~] The task force shall commission a study on ways to reduce disparities in attention, resources and commitment to finding missing girls and women who are black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). The study, which shall include conclusions and recommendations based on stakeholder input, shall be provided to the task force upon completion.

d. Based upon the study, the task force shall prepare a final report outlining its findings and recommendations providing ways for New York state to:

(i) improve cultural responsiveness and alleviate a lack of care and concern for missing and murdered BIPOC women and girls within New York state;

(ii) enhance community awareness of the severity of the number of BIPOC women and girls who are missing and murdered, including the creation of a statewide public awareness campaign;

(iii) provide communities of black, indigenous and people of color with education and training on the prevention, protection, and protocols relating to missing BIPOC women and girls, including as it relates to social media;

(iv) developing strategies to collect statistics, demographics, surveys, oral histories, and data analysis;

(v) recommend preventative programming and ideas to advance the safety of BIPOC women and girls, including policies that address the overlapping forms of oppression faced by women and girls who are BIPOC; and

(vi) identify major traffic hubs, highways, and resource extraction sites that lead to or are responsible for the facilitation of the abduction of women and girls who are BIPOC.

e. On or before two years after the effective date of this act, the task force shall submit to the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly a report containing its findings and recommendations. [~~Such reports~~] **The report** shall be made available to the public.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2023 establishing a task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and people of color, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4266-A and A. 5088-A, takes effect, provided, however, that the amendments to section 1 of a chapter of the laws of 2023 establishing a task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and people of color, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4266-A and A. 5088-A, made by section two of this act shall be subject to the expiration of such section and shall expire and be deemed repealed therewith.