

# STATE OF NEW YORK

9024

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 5, 2024

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

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the commission on public safety, emergency preparedness, and mental health

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

1 Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new article 49-C  
2 to read as follows:

### ARTICLE 49-C

#### COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SAFETY, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AND MENTAL HEALTH

##### Section 996. Definitions.

6 996-a. Commission on public safety, emergency preparedness, and  
7 mental health.

8 996-b. Division of school safety.

9 996-c. Division of emergency preparedness.

10 996-d. Division of mental health.

11 996-e. Community engagement and public oversight.

12 996-f. Utilization of other agency assistance.

13 996-g. Reports.

14 § 996. Definitions. As used in this article, the following terms shall  
15 have the following meanings:

16 1. "commission" shall mean the commission on public safety, emergency  
17 preparedness, and mental health established by this article.

18 2. "state agency" shall mean the state and any department, division,  
19 board, bureau, commission or agency of the state or any political subdi-  
20 vision thereof.

21 § 996-a. Commission on public safety, emergency preparedness, and  
22 mental health. 1. There is hereby created within the executive depart-  
23 ment a commission on public safety, emergency preparedness, and mental  
24 health consisting of the superintendent of state police, commissioner of  
25 the division of homeland security and emergency services, commissioner  
26 of education, the chairperson of the disaster preparedness commission,  
27 the commissioner of health, and the commissioner of mental health. Each  
28 member agency may designate an executive level officer of that agency,

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

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1 with responsibility for disaster preparedness matters, who may represent  
2 that agency on the commission.

3 2. The commission shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and any other  
4 necessary officers from among the members of the commission. A majority  
5 of the members of the commission then in office shall constitute a  
6 quorum for the transaction of business or the exercise of any power or  
7 function of the commission. The commission, on call of the chairperson,  
8 shall meet at least quarterly and at such other times as may be neces-  
9 sary. The agenda and meeting place of all regular meetings shall be made  
10 available to the public in advance of such meetings and all such meet-  
11 ings shall be open to the public. An act, determination or decision of  
12 the majority of the members present during the presence of a quorum  
13 shall be held to be the act, determination, or decision of the commis-  
14 sion.

15 3. The members of the commission shall be allowed their actual and  
16 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties under  
17 this article but shall receive no additional compensation for services  
18 rendered pursuant to this article.

19 4. The commission shall have the following powers and responsibil-  
20 ities:

21 (a) work with the division of school safety, division of emergency  
22 preparedness, and the division of mental health to provide resources,  
23 training, and support to schools and the community, as well as promote  
24 awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health.

25 (b) work with local emergency management agencies and mental health  
26 organizations to improve the community's ability to respond to natural  
27 disasters, public health emergencies, and other critical incidents.

28 (c) address critical issues related to public safety, emergency  
29 preparedness, and mental health.

30 (d) provide a comprehensive approach to public safety, emergency  
31 preparedness, and mental health.

32 (e) improve the overall safety and well-being of the community.

33 (f) provide resources and support to schools and the community to  
34 promote mental health awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding mental  
35 health.

36 (g) prioritize community engagement and public oversight.

37 § 996-b. Division of school safety. The division of school safety  
38 shall be responsible for ensuring the safety of students, teachers, and  
39 staff in schools. The division of school safety shall consist of the  
40 members of the commission with representatives from local law enforce-  
41 ment, school administrators, and school safety experts. The division of  
42 school safety shall provide training and resources to schools, including  
43 but not limited to threat assessments, school safety drills, and active  
44 shooter response plans.

45 § 996-c. Division of emergency preparedness. The division of emergency  
46 preparedness shall be responsible for developing and implementing emer-  
47 gency preparedness plans for the community. The division of emergency  
48 preparedness shall consist of the members of the commission with repre-  
49 sentatives from local emergency management agencies, first responders,  
50 and public health officials. The division of emergency preparedness  
51 shall improve the ability of communities to respond to natural disas-  
52 ters, public health emergencies, and other critical incidents.

53 § 996-d. Division of mental health. The division of mental health  
54 shall be responsible for promoting mental health awareness in schools  
55 and the community. The division of mental health shall consist of the  
56 members of the commission with representatives from local mental health

1 organizations, school counselors, and mental health professionals. The  
2 division of mental health shall provide mental health resources and  
3 training to schools, as well as support and referrals for students,  
4 teachers, and staff.

5 § 996-e. Community engagement and public oversight. The commission  
6 shall maintain a website where a member of the public can leave a public  
7 comment on the commission. The commission shall also conduct hearings at  
8 least twice a year where the public can comment on the commission. One  
9 such hearing shall occur in a city with a population of one million or  
10 more and another such hearing shall not occur in a city with a popu-  
11 lation of one million or more.

12 § 996-f. Utilization of other agency assistance. All state agencies  
13 are hereby authorized and directed to provide assistance and available  
14 resources, as requested by the commission, in order to effectuate the  
15 purposes of this article.

16 § 996-g. Reports. The commission shall report on its progress, accom-  
17 plishments, findings, conclusions, recommendations, and activities to  
18 the governor and to the legislature annually on or before the thirty-  
19 first day of March of each year.

20 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.