

STATE OF NEW YORK

9119

IN ASSEMBLY

February 7, 2024

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

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to establishing the mandatory reporting of child abuse and maltreatment task force; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section
2 371-c to read as follows:

3 § 371-c. Mandatory reporting of child abuse and maltreatment task
4 force. 1. The mandatory reporting of child abuse and maltreatment task
5 force is hereby established to examine, evaluate, and make recommenda-
6 tions concerning the child welfare system and the mandatory reporting of
7 child abuse and maltreatment.

8 2. The task force shall consist of ten members to be appointed as
9 follows:

10 (a) three members appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

11 (b) three members appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

12 (c) two members appointed by the governor;

13 (d) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and

14 (e) one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly.

15 3. The members of the task force shall each have expertise in the
16 prevention and treatment of child abuse and maltreatment and may have
17 expertise in the following: lived experience with the child welfare
18 system; providing community-based supports for families with child
19 welfare system involvement; legal expertise in the child welfare system;
20 parent advocates; social work or case management; or relevant health or
21 mental health expertise.

22 4. Vacancies in the task force shall be filled in the manner provided
23 for original appointments. All appointments shall be coordinated to
24 ensure geographic representation from the entire state. A majority of
25 the members of the task force then in office shall constitute a quorum
26 for the transaction of business or the exercise of any power or function

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

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1 of the task force. The task force shall convene no later than one
2 hundred twenty days following the effective date of this section and may
3 meet as frequently as its business may require, which may include meet-
4 ings via teleconference. Special meetings may be called at the request
5 of a majority of the members of the task force.

6 5. The members of the task force shall receive no compensation for
7 their services but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses
8 incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this act.

9 6. The task force shall perform the following duties:

10 (a) evaluate the list of professionals required to report suspected
11 cases of child abuse and maltreatment under section four hundred thir-
12 teen of this chapter;

13 (b) assess the statutory obligations for professionals required to
14 report suspected cases of child abuse and maltreatment under section
15 four hundred thirteen of this chapter, including penalties for failure
16 to report, and its potential impact on health and human services provid-
17 ers' ability to carry out their professional duties;

18 (c) provide recommendations on best practices to support families to
19 prevent child welfare system involvement;

20 (d) determine best practices for mitigating any adverse childhood
21 experiences incurred as a result of child welfare system involvement;
22 and

23 (e) provide any other recommendations the task force deems necessary
24 to improve the child welfare system to support children and families in
25 the state.

26 7. The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommen-
27 dations to the governor, temporary president of the senate, speaker of
28 the assembly, minority leader of the senate, minority leader of the
29 assembly, chair of the senate children and families committee and chair
30 of the assembly children and families committee, no later than December
31 thirty-first, two thousand twenty-five.

32 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire December
33 31, 2026, when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed
34 repealed.