STATE OF NEW YORK

6790

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 10, 2023

Introduced by Sen. PALUMBO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT in relation to establishing a task force to create a comprehensive plan for the future of the Southampton campus of Stony Brook University

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

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds that in 2006, the state of New York acquired and established a new campus at Southampton under the auspices of Stony Brook University. The legislature further finds that it has made a commitment to maintain and expand opportunities for higher education at this campus.

However, Stony Brook University has failed to achieve the full potential of the campus. Seventeen years after assuming stewardship of the Southampton campus, Stony Brook University has failed to adopt and implement a long term plan for the campus. In fact, of the 41 buildings located on the campus, 17 are considered to be unsafe for use and occupancy, including historic Southampton Hall. Further, Stony Brook University has failed to even apply for state and federal funding that could have been utilized to restore or replace these buildings for future use on the campus.

Such neglect is unacceptable.

A vision for the future of the campus must be created working with the local community. The first step to create that vision and realize that the full potential of the campus is the development of a comprehensive plan for the Southampton campus. Such a comprehensive plan will identify the capital investment and programmatic initiatives that are necessary to achieve the full potential of the campus.

Therefore, the intent of this legislation is to establish a task force to create a comprehensive plan for the future of the Southampton campus.

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

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§ 2. 1. There is hereby created the Southampton campus comprehensive plan task force.

2. Such task force shall consist of 7 voting members as follows: (a) the member of the senate representing the campus; (b) the member of the assembly representing the campus; (c) the Suffolk county legislator representing the campus; (d) the town supervisor of the town of Southampton; (e) the village mayor of the village of Southampton; (f) the chairman of the tribal trustees of the Shinnecock Indian Nation; and (g) the president of Stony Brook University, or their designees. The task force shall be empowered to appoint a community advisory committee of not more than 15 members to include representatives of business, environmental, educational, civic, and community interests.

3. The chair of the task force shall be elected by the task force from among its members. Four members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of organizing the task force and conducting the meetings thereof. Members of the task force shall serve without salary or other compensation. The task force shall meet not less than once a month at the Southampton campus until a final report and recommendations are submitted in accordance with subdivision six of this section.

4. Such task force shall develop recommendations for the future use of the Southampton campus, including but not limited to a comprehensive plan and a 5 year action plan. Such plan shall consider both the capital and program needs of the campus to maximize its full educational and community potential. The state university and all other state agencies shall provide their expertise and, where possible, their resources to assist the task force in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities.

5. Within 2 months of the effective date of this act, the task force shall hold a public hearing. Additional hearings may be held at the discretion of the task force. The task force shall adopt preliminary recommendations within 6 months of the effective date of this act. Following the adoption of such preliminary recommendations, the task force shall hold at least one additional public hearing.

6. The task force shall develop and submit a final report of recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly within 9 months of the effective date of this act.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.