STATE OF NEW YORK

8659

IN SENATE

February 27, 2024

Introduced by Sens. BROUK, HELMING, JACKSON, KENNEDY, MAY, SEPULVEDA, WEBB -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to establish a Black youth suicide prevention task force; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. Black youth suicide prevention task force. (a) There is hereby created the Black youth suicide prevention task force to examine, evaluate and determine how to improve mental health and suicide prevention for Black New York residents aged 5 though 18 years, consisting of seven members, each to serve until two years after the effective date of this act.

(b)(1) Such members shall be appointed as follows: one member shall be appointed by the governor; one member shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly; and two members shall be appointed by the commissioner of mental health. Appointments shall be made within sixty days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the task force shall be filled in the same manner provided for original appointments.

(2) All appointees shall have expertise in fields or disciplines related to mental health suicide prevention services, supports and knowledge related to the Black community. All appointments shall be coordinated to ensure geographic representation from the entire state.

(3) The task force shall be chaired by the governor's appointee. The task force shall elect a vice-chair by majority vote and other necessary officers from among all appointed members.

(4) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the chair. Meetings may be held via teleconference. Special meetings may be called by the chair at the request of a majority of the members of the task force.

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

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(5) Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in the work of the task force.

(c) The task force shall:

(1) study current mental health practices and suicide prevention efforts for Black youths aged 5 through 18 years;

(2) recommend mental health practices and suicide prevention efforts for such age group to increase effectiveness across the state; and

(3) determine potential reasons for the high number of Black youth suicides.

(d) The task force may establish advisory committees as it deems appropriate on matters relating to the task force's functions, powers and duties. Such committees shall be chaired by a task force member, but may be composed of task force members as well as other individuals selected by the task force to provide expertise of interest specific to the charge of such committees.

(e) The task force may, as it deems appropriate, request that studies, surveys and analyses relating to the task force's powers and duties be performed by any state department, commission, agency or public authority. All state departments, commissions, agencies or public authorities shall provide information and advice in a timely manner and otherwise assist the task force with its work; provided however, any information or records otherwise confidential and privileged in accordance with state or federal law that are provided to the task force pursuant to this subdivision shall remain confidential as provided by such state or federal law and provided, further, that reports of the task force shall not identify the name or related identifying information concerning individual persons who are deceased as a result of suicide.

(f) The task force shall provide a preliminary report to the governor and the legislature of its findings, conclusions, recommendations and activities already undertaken by the task force, not later than thirteen months after the effective date of this act, and a final report of its findings, conclusions, recommendations and activities already undertaken by the task force, not later than twenty-two months after the effective date of this act and shall submit with its reports legislative proposals as it deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law and shall expire 2 years after such effective date when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.