STATE OF NEW YORK

11345

IN ASSEMBLY

May 12, 2026

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Hevesi, Benedetto) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT establishing a task force to study and make recommendations on chronic absenteeism at public schools in the state of New York; 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:

Section 1. Chronic absenteeism; task force. 1. There shall be established a task force to study chronic absenteeism at public schools in the state of New York.

a. The task force shall be comprised of:

(i) the commissioner of education;

(ii) the commissioner of the office of children and family services;

(iii) seven public members, each of whom has specialized knowledge or expertise in issues related to the work of the task force. One of the public members shall be appointed by the governor, two shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; two shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly; and one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and

(iv) eleven public members appointed by the governor, who shall include: one member at the recommendation of the school boards association; one member at the recommendation of the council on school superintendents; one member at the recommendation of the state united teachers; four members at the recommendation of the state education department; and four members at the recommendation of the office of children and family services.

b. The appointments to the task force shall be made within thirty days of the effective date of this section. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the task force within

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

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the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

c. The task force shall organize within thirty days following the appointment of its members. The task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

2. The task force shall:

a. analyze the root causes of chronic absenteeism, which may include, but are not limited to, barriers to attendance, aversion to school, disengagement from school, mental health, and school climate;

b. analyze the impacts of chronic absenteeism on student well-being and academic performance; and

c. develop recommendations on the most effective ways to combat chronic absenteeism, which may include, but are not limited to, intervention strategies for schools, student support measures, parental education, and family and community engagement.

3. The task force shall issue a report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate, the chair of the assembly committee on education, the ranking minority member of the assembly committee on education, the chair of the senate committee on education, the ranking minority member of the senate committee on education, the chair of the assembly committee on children and families, the ranking minority member of the assembly committee on children and families, the chair of the senate committee on children and families, and the ranking minority member of the senate committee on children and families no later than one year after the organization of the task force. The report shall contain the task force's findings and recommendations.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed 60 days after the transmission of the report of the findings and recommendations of the task force, as required by subdivision 3 of section one of this act. Provided, however, that the commissioner of the state education department shall notify the legislative bill drafting commission upon the transmission of the report of the findings of the task force, as provided in subdivision 3 of section one of this act, in order that the commission may maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effectuating the provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the public officers law.