

STATE OF NEW YORK

4989

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 10, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BUTTENSCHON, CUNNINGHAM, STIRPE, SAYEGH, MAGNARELLI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT in relation to establishing a task force to be called the office of asylum management; 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:

- 1 Section 1. Office of asylum management task force. A task force to be
2 named the "office of asylum management" shall be established to study,
3 evaluate, and develop recommendations relating to the management of
4 asylum seekers in this state. For the purposes of this act, the term
5 "asylum seeker" shall mean an individual who changes their country of
6 usual residence to seek temporary or permanent residence in another
7 country, and who has applied for asylum under 8 U.S. Code § 1158 or is
8 eligible to apply; or who is a refugee as defined by section 101(a)(42)
9 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
- 10 § 2. Membership of task force. 1. The office of asylum management
11 shall consist of seventeen members who shall be appointed as follows:
- 12 (a) One member to be appointed by each of the following:
- 13 (i) The head of refugee services within the office of temporary and
14 disability assistance;
- 15 (ii) The commissioner of health;
- 16 (iii) The commissioner of labor;
- 17 (iv) The secretary of state;
- 18 (v) The commissioner of children and family services;
- 19 (vi) The commissioner of education;
- 20 (vii) The commissioner of the division of criminal justice services;
- 21 (viii) The commissioner of agriculture and markets;
- 22 (ix) The commissioner of the division of homeland security and emer-
23 gency services;

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

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- (x) The commissioner of human rights; and
(xi) The director of the budget; and
(b) Two members to be appointed by each of the following:
(i) The speaker of the assembly;
(ii) The temporary president of the senate; and
(iii) The governor.

2. All appointments pursuant to this section shall be made no later than the thirtieth day after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner provided for by the original appointments. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable following the appointment of its members. The members of the task force shall elect a chairperson from among its members to serve as the head of the task force. The members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall receive reimbursement for reasonable costs incurred in the performance of their duties under this act.

§ 3. Duties of task force. The office of asylum management shall study, evaluate, and develop recommendations relating to state management of asylum seekers including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) services that do not exist or that should be improved in the state;

(b) the regions of the state experiencing, and expected to experience, the greatest influx of asylum seekers;

(c) current state resources that are available;

(d) the average amount of time asylum seekers experience delays in work authorization;

(e) work opportunities in the state that are available to asylum seekers;

(f) data collection practices on asylum seekers before they enter the state, so the state can be better prepared for such asylum seekers; and

(g) any other information that the office of asylum management shall deem important.

§ 4. Powers of task force. The task force shall be entitled to request and receive, and shall utilize such facilities, resources and data of any court, department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof as it may reasonably request to properly carry out its duties under this act.

§ 5. Reporting. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly on or before the expiration of this act.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed two years after such date.