STATE OF NEW YORK

5282

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 20, 2025

Introduced by Sens. SEPULVEDA, RIVERA, SALAZAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations

AN ACT relating to establishing a joint legislative committee on racial equity in New York state

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

Section 1. a. There is hereby created the joint legislative committee on racial equity in New York state. The committee shall provide a racial equity impact assessment on all legislation that is favorably reported from both houses of the legislature. The committee shall solicit input from members of the public, especially those individuals with expertise related to racial equity issues, to aid the committee in its work.

b. The committee shall consist of the majority leaders and minority leaders from both houses of the legislature, ten members appointed by the temporary president of the senate and ten members appointed by the speaker of the assembly who are representative of the racial diversity that exists in New York state. Any vacancies occurring among the members of the committee shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment.

c. The committee shall (1) prepare a racial equity impact assessment on all legislation that is reported favorably to both houses of the legislature to minimize unanticipated adverse consequences by utilizing resources that have a: (i) history of expertise and positive outcomes in racial equity; and (ii) a deep understanding of ameliorating disproportionate outcomes and unintended costs; (2) hold a hearing on any matter relating to the functions of the committee; (3) identify state policies and actions that, in conjunction with public and private partners and in support of racial equity, can work to achieve conditions of such; (4) review and make recommendations to align state statutes, regulations, programs, services and budgetary priorities; (5) search for

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

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any interdepartmental gaps, inconsistencies and inefficiencies in the implementation or attainment of the state policies and actions; (6) identify any new laws, regulations, programs, services, and budgetary priorities that are needed to ensure and promote desired conditions of racial equity; (7) serve as an informational resource for the legislature; and (8) perform other activities, including public outreach.

d. The committee shall have the same powers as other standing or select committees of the legislature.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.