

STATE OF NEW YORK

8741

IN SENATE

January 8, 2026

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to establishing the interagency elder justice 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:

1 Section 1. The elder law is amended by adding a new section 227 to
2 read as follows:

3 § 227. Interagency elder justice task force. 1. There is hereby
4 created within the office an interagency elder justice task force
5 consisting of representatives of state agencies whose work involves
6 elder justice to create greater collaboration and develop overarching
7 strategies, systems, and programs, with the goal of protecting older
8 adults from abuse and mistreatment. The task force shall collaborate to
9 identify consistent policies and programs in elder justice; and, facili-
10 tate communication and foster collaborative relationships among state
11 agencies.

12 2. The task force shall consist of the following members or their
13 designees:

14 (a) the director of the office for the aging, who shall serve as
15 chair;

16 (b) the director of the office of victims services;

17 (c) the commissioner of the office of children and family services;

18 (d) the superintendent of financial services;

19 (e) the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services;

20 (f) the commissioner of mental health;

21 (g) the director of the office for the prevention of domestic
22 violence;

23 (h) the commissioner of health;

24 (i) the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disa-
25 bilities;

26 (j) the superintendent of the New York state police;

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

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1 (k) the executive director of the justice center for the protection
2 of people with special needs;

3 (l) the secretary of state for the department of state's division of
4 consumer protection;

5 (m) one member appointed by the governor;

6 (n) one member appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

7 (o) one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly;

8 (p) one member appointed by the temporary president of the senate; and

9 (q) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

10 3. The task force shall request input from stakeholders, advocates,
11 experts, and coalitions.

12 4. Members appointed to the task force shall have relevant experience
13 and expertise concerning elder justice by virtue of their education,
14 training or lived experience.

15 5. The task force shall:

16 (a) develop a cohesive, comprehensive state plan on elder justice that
17 aligns with New York state's elder justice policy and programs across
18 state agency responsibilities;

19 (b) develop plans for a coordinated and comprehensive response from
20 state and local government and other entities when elder abuse is
21 reported;

22 (c) facilitate interagency planning and policy development on elder
23 justice;

24 (d) review and propose specific agency initiatives for their impact on
25 systems and services related to elder justice;

26 (e) coordinate activities for world elder abuse awareness day and
27 other events;

28 (f) inform local and state agencies on national developments in elder
29 justice; and

30 (g) make recommendations on methods to improve New York's elder abuse
31 prevention and intervention efforts.

32 6. The task force shall meet regularly, but no less than quarterly and
33 where otherwise appropriate to fulfill its duties under this chapter.
34 The members of this task force shall serve without compensation, but
35 shall be entitled to reimbursement for all necessary expenses incurred
36 in the performance of their duties.

37 7. Any vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled
38 in the same manner provided for in the initial appointment.

39 8. The members of the task force shall be appointed no later than one
40 hundred twenty days after the effective date of this section.

41 § 2. Within one year of the effective date of this act, in carrying
42 out its functions, the interagency elder justice task force shall hold
43 five public hearings around the state to foster discussions and conduct
44 formal public hearings with requisite public notice to solicit input and
45 recommendations from statewide and regional stakeholder interests. Such
46 task force shall also accept public input in writing. Such task force
47 may utilize remote access such as web conferencing to comply with the
48 provisions of this section.

49 § 3. Within two years of the effective date of this act the interagen-
50 cy elder justice task force shall report its findings and recommenda-
51 tions to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the
52 speaker of the assembly and shall publicize its findings on the office
53 for the aging website.

54 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be
55 deemed repealed 3 years after such effective date.