STATE OF NEW YORK

331

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sens. BAILEY, HOYLMAN-SIGAL, JACKSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT relating to creating the commission on affordable college education to study the participation of community colleges in the educational opportunity program; 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. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby acknowledges the need for a college education to compete in today's market. Furthermore, residents throughout New York state are in need of more affordable higher education options. Currently, twelve out of the thirty SUNY community colleges do not participate in the Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP), which provide vital financial and academic support for thousands of academic and economically disadvantaged New Yorkers throughout the state. Subsequently, community college students from those twelve two-year colleges, who seek to transfer into a four-year school as Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) or EOP applicants risk potentially disqualifying themselves for such financial and academic support programs.

§ 2. A temporary state commission, to be known as the "commission on affordable college education", is hereby established to examine, evaluate and make recommendations concerning the need for the twelve SUNY community colleges to participate in EOP. The commission shall consider the need for additional legislation to amend current eligibility criteria for transfer students.

§ 3. The commission shall consist of thirteen members, to be appointed as follows: three members to be appointed by the governor; three members to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; three members

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

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to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; two members to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and two members to be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. The members shall have demonstrated expertise in and experience in the field of higher education, HEOP, or EOP. A chairperson and vice-chairperson of such commission shall be elected by the majority of its members, all members being present.

§ 4. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties hereunder.

§ 5. The commission may employ and at pleasure remove such personnel as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions. Such commission may meet and hold public and/or private hearings within or without the state, and shall have all the powers of a legislative committee pursuant to the legislative law.

§ 6. For the accomplishment of its purposes, the commission shall be authorized and empowered to undertake any studies, inquiries, surveys or analyses it may deem relevant in cooperation with or by agreement with any other public or private agency.

§ 7. The commission shall make a report of its findings, including any recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary and appropriate, to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than one year after the effective date of this act.

§ 8. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall become a law and shall expire and be deemed repealed two years after such date.