STATE OF NEW YORK

9664

IN SENATE

April 1, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing the New York state rural ambulance services task force

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

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 3032-a to read as follows:

§ 3032-a. Rural ambulance services task force. 1. The department is hereby authorized to establish the New York state rural ambulance services task force within the bureau of emergency medical services to examine, evaluate and make recommendations concerning New York state ambulance services in rural areas.

2. (a) Such task force shall be comprised of individuals with expertise in providing emergency medical services and/or providing medical services in rural areas. The members shall be appointed as follows:

(i) two members appointed by the governor;

(ii) two members appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

(iii) two members appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

(iv) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

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

(vi) two members appointed by the office of fire prevention and control;

(vii) two members appointed by the bureau of emergency medical services; and

(viii) two members appointed by the commissioner of labor.

(b) One of the appointments by the governor shall serve as chairperson of the task force.

(c) The members of the task force shall serve for four years. Members shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their services.

(d) The task force may collect and shall be provided all relevant information necessary to carry out its functions from any relevant agen-

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

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cy. Members of the task force shall keep any information received in the course of their duties confidential and shall only use such information in the course of carrying out their duties on the task force.

3. Such task force shall conduct annual studies on the availability of ambulance services in rural areas, with a particular focus on the unique challenges they face and their ability to provide services. Utilizing information obtained from such studies, the task force shall report and provide recommendations in accordance with subdivision four of this section, which shall include, but not be limited to the following:

(a) an analysis of the total number of ambulance services available in rural areas of the state, provided by service type and geographic region they serve and compared to the documented need for such services;

(b) assessing current reimbursement structures in place for ambulance services as well as various methods to fund or otherwise raise revenue for such services;

(c) assessing barriers that currently exist that may have led to a shortage of available ambulance services to meet the need; and

(d) studying any other issue such task force deems relevant.

4. Within twelve months of the effective date of this section, and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report detailing the findings of the study to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.