



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 477

By Council Members Hudson, Menin, Brooks-Powers, Joseph, Nurse, Abreu, Louis, Restler, Avilés, Cabán, Gennaro, De La Rosa, Hanif, Sanchez, Farías and The Speaker (Council Member Adams)

A Local Law in relation to establishing a child care task force

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Definitions. For purposes of this local law, the following terms have the following meanings:

City. The term “city” means the city of New York.

Task force. The term “task force” means the child care task force established by this local law.

§ 2. Task force established. There is hereby established a task force to be known as the child care task force.

§ 3. Duties. The task force shall study how to make child care more affordable through free or low-cost child care, determine how to make child care more accessible for families in the city, examine ways to provide support and funding to child care providers and workers, and make recommendations for establishing child care for all children ages five and under in the city. Such recommendations shall take into account the number of children ages five and under in the city, the capacity of child care providers, the average incomes of families with children in the city, the projected costs of implementing any recommended programs, and any other considerations the task force deems relevant.

§ 4. Membership. a. The task force shall be composed of the following members:

1. The commissioner of health and mental hygiene or such commissioner’s designee, who shall be designated as chair;

2. The chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York or such chancellor’s designee;

3. The commissioner of buildings or such commissioner's designee;
 4. The commissioner of children's services or such commissioner's designee;
 5. One school principal employed by the department of education to be appointed by the mayor;
 6. One teacher employed by the department of education to be appointed by the speaker of the council;
 7. One child care provider of a child care program in the city to be appointed by the mayor;
 8. One child care worker of a child care program in the city to be appointed by the speaker of the council;
 9. One parent of a child under the age of three who is enrolled in a child care program in the city to be appointed by the mayor;
 10. One parent of a child between the ages of four and five who is enrolled in a child care program in the city to be appointed by the mayor; and
 11. Three members to be appointed by the mayor in consultation with the speaker of the council and the public advocate, who are experts in child care advocacy or reform or are members, employees or directors of, or otherwise affiliated with, an organization engaged in child care advocacy or reform work.
- b. The mayor shall invite the commissioner of the office of children and family services or such commissioner's designee to participate in the work of the task force, and may invite other officers and representatives of relevant federal, state and local agencies and authorities to participate in the work of the task force.
- c. All appointments required by this section shall be made no later than 90 days after the effective date of this local law.
- d. Each member of the task force shall serve at the pleasure of the officer who appointed the member. In the event of a vacancy on the task force, a successor shall be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term. All members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

§ 5. Meetings. a. The chair shall convene the first meeting of the task force no later than 30 days after the last member has been appointed, except that where not all members of the task force have been appointed within the time specified in section four of this local law, the chair shall convene the first meeting of the task force within 10 days of the appointment of a quorum.

b. The task force may invite experts and stakeholders to attend its meetings and to provide testimony and information relevant to its duties.

c. The task force shall meet no less than once each month to carry out the duties described in section three of this local law.

d. The meeting requirement of subdivision c of this section shall be suspended when the task force submits its report as required by section six of this local law.

§ 6. Report. a. No later than 270 days after the effective date of this local law, the task force shall submit a report to the mayor, the speaker of the council and the public advocate setting forth its recommendations for establishing child care for all children ages five and under in the city, making child care more affordable and accessible for families in the city and providing support and funding to child care providers and workers, and shall include but need not be limited to the following:

1. Any challenges associated with implementing child care programs in each city school district;
2. The projected costs associated with implementing child care programs in all city school districts;
3. Recommendations for policies and programs to make the costs of child care in the city more affordable for families;
4. Recommendations for increasing support and funding to child care providers and workers, such as providing training or other free or low-cost resources;
5. Recommendations for increasing the number of child care facilities in the city, including ways to increase the number of applications for licensed child care programs; and
6. A summary of information the task force considered in formulating its recommendations.

b. The commissioner of health and mental hygiene shall publish the report required by this section on the website of the department of health and mental hygiene no later than 10 days after its submission to the mayor and the speaker of the council.

§ 7. Agency support. Each agency affected by this local law shall provide appropriate staff and resources to support the work of such agency related to the task force.

§ 8. Termination. The task force shall terminate 180 days after the date on which it submits its report, as required by section six of this local law.

§ 9. This local law takes effect immediately.

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