

ASSEMBLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4296

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 8, 2023

The Assembly State and Local Government Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4296 (1R).

As amended, this bill establishes the “New Jersey Target Zero Commission” (commission). The commission is to consist of 13 members as outlined in the bill.

The purpose and duties of the commission are to study, examine, and review all aspects of traffic safety with a particular focus on access, equity, and mobility for all road users using the safe system approach and to advise the Governor, the Legislature, and the Department of Transportation regarding policies, programs, research, and priorities to help achieve the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

The commission is required to take the following steps to achieve its purpose and duties: (1) develop an action plan to help achieve the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roadways in the State by 2040; (2) identify short-term and long-term data-driven strategies with measurable goals and target dates to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries with the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2040; (3) promote effective and transparent collection of traffic safety data and dissemination of such data via a publicly accessible data portal; (4) encourage the elimination of road hazards by advancing active transportation and mass transit as safe and viable forms of transportation; (5) provide recommendations for changes to State, county, and municipal law to achieve the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2040; (6) develop an action plan to implement and promote the safe system approach, target zero strategies, and evidenced-based safety countermeasures to help achieve the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries among all road users by 2040; (7) create and maintain an interactive Internet website to provide information about the commission; (8) serve as an advisor to the Department of Transportation and other

State agencies and transportation authorities with regard to roadway planning and transportation infrastructure planning; (9) provide advice and assistance to county and municipal governments to develop their own target zero plans; and (10) report annually to the Governor and Legislature on the findings and activities of the commission.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

- rename the commission as the “New Jersey Target Zero Commission” and amend the bill’s title and synopsis to reflect this change;
- appoint several new members to the commission;
- require the commission to hold its initial meeting no more than 60 days after the bill’s effective date, instead of 30 days as previously required;
- require the commission to hold two annual public hearings and to require the commission to meet with key stakeholders, advocates, and experts;
- change the definition of “active transportation”;
- include new definitions for the following terms: bicycle, pedestrian, personal conveyance, and target zero strategies;
- remove the definition for the term “vision zero strategies”; and
- provide that the commission is to take certain actions with the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2040, rather than by 2035.