

ASSEMBLY, No. 3972

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 4, 2013

Sponsored by:

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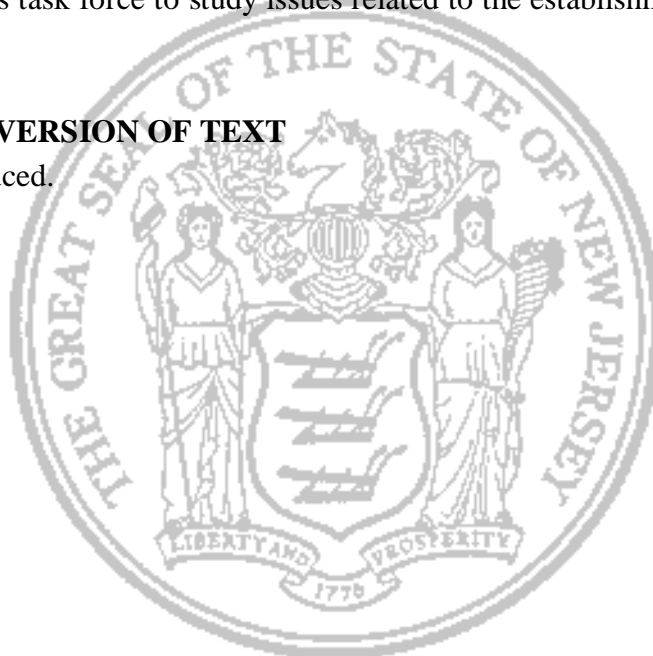
Assemblyman Eustace and Assemblywoman Jimenez

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to study issues related to the establishment of full-day kindergarten.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2013)

1 AN ACT establishing a Task Force on Full-Day Kindergarten.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
4 *of New Jersey:*

5

6 1. a. There is established a Task Force on Full-Day
7 Kindergarten. The purpose of the task force is to study and
8 evaluate issues associated with the establishment of full-day
9 kindergarten.

10 b. The task force shall consist of the following 17 members:

11 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or his designee, who shall
12 serve ex officio;

13 (2) one member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the
14 Senate;

15 (3) one member of the General Assembly, appointed by the
16 Speaker of the General Assembly; and

17 (4) 14 members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:
18 three superintendents of schools, one each from an urban, suburban,
19 and rural school district; two elementary school principals, one of
20 whom is employed in a school district that provides full-day
21 kindergarten; two kindergarten teachers, one of whom is employed
22 in a school district that provides full-day kindergarten; one member
23 upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Education
24 Association; one member upon the recommendation of the New
25 Jersey School Boards Association; one member upon the
26 recommendation of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
27 Association; one member upon the recommendation of the New
28 Jersey Association of School Administrators; and three members of
29 the public with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work
30 of the task force.

31 c. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
32 after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of
33 the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
34 appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve
35 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary
36 expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members
37 of the task force within the limits of funds appropriated or
38 otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

39

40 2. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable
41 following the appointment of its members, but no later than 60 days
42 after the effective date of this act. The task force shall choose a
43 chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a secretary
44 who need not be a member of the task force.

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46 3. The Department of Education shall provide such
47 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such
48 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.

1 The task force also shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
2 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
3 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
4 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

5
6 4. The task force shall study and evaluate issues associated
7 with the establishment and implementation of full-day kindergarten
8 throughout the State, and make recommendations regarding the
9 establishment of full-day kindergarten. The task force shall study
10 and consider issues including, but not limited to, the following:

11 a. review of existing research, studies, and data concerning
12 full-day kindergarten, including studies that examine the long-term
13 academic impact of full-day kindergarten, and studies that examine
14 the social and emotional impact of full-day kindergarten;

15 b. implementation considerations associated with full-day
16 kindergarten including, but not limited to, staffing needs, facility
17 space, and class size;

18 c. funding necessary for the establishment of full-day
19 kindergarten, including possible sources of funding;

20 d. curriculum comparisons between full-day kindergarten and
21 half-day kindergarten;

22 e. opinions and recommendations of parents and elementary
23 school teachers regarding full-day kindergarten, both in support of,
24 and opposed to, full-day kindergarten; and

25 f. the feasibility of offering full-day kindergarten in school
26 districts Statewide.

27
28 5. a. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor,
29 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
30 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one year after the task force organizes.
31 The report shall contain the task force's findings and
32 recommendations regarding the establishment of full-day
33 kindergarten.

34 b. The task force shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its
35 final report.

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37 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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40 STATEMENT

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42 This bill establishes a 17-member task force to study and
43 evaluate issues associated with the establishment and
44 implementation of full-day kindergarten. The task force will be
45 comprised of: the Commissioner of Education; one member of the
46 Senate; one member of the General Assembly; and 14 members
47 appointed by the Governor, including three superintendents of
48 schools, two elementary school principals, two kindergarten

1 teachers, one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
2 Education Association, one member upon the recommendation of
3 the New Jersey School Boards Association, one member upon the
4 recommendation of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
5 Association, one member upon the recommendation of the New
6 Jersey Association of School Administrators, and three members of
7 the public with expertise related to the work of the task force.

8 The task force will study and consider issues including, but not
9 limited to:

- 10 - review of existing research, studies, and data concerning full-
11 day kindergarten, including studies that examine the long-
12 term academic impact and the social and emotional impact of
13 full-day kindergarten;
- 14 - implementation issues associated with full-day kindergarten,
15 including but not limited to, staffing needs, facility space,
16 and class size;
- 17 - funding needed for full-day kindergarten, including sources
18 of funding;
- 19 - curriculum comparisons between full-day kindergarten and
20 half-day kindergarten;
- 21 - opinions and recommendations of parents and elementary
22 school teachers regarding full-day kindergarten; and
- 23 - the feasibility of offering full-day kindergarten in school
24 districts Statewide.

25 The task force is required to issue a final report to the Governor
26 and the Legislature within one year of its organization, which
27 contains the task force's findings and recommendations regarding
28 the establishment of full-day kindergarten.