

ASSEMBLY, No. 447

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman BETTYLOU DECROCE

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

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District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

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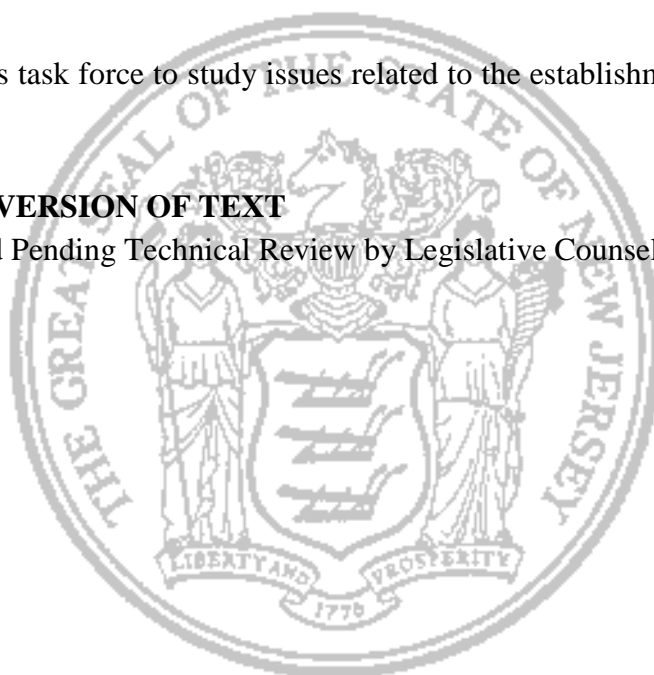
Assemblyman Eustace, Assemblywomen Jimenez, Vainieri Huttle, Assemblyman Diegnan, Assemblywomen Caride, Spencer, Watson Coleman, Assemblymen Conaway, Gusciora, Coughlin, McKeon, Garcia and Assemblywoman Riley

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/9/2014)

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 21 members:

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

13 (2) one member appointed by the President of the Senate and
14 one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, both
15 of whom shall be members of the public with demonstrated
16 expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force;

17 (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the General
18 Assembly and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
19 General Assembly, both of whom shall be members of the public
20 with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the
21 task force; and

22 (4) 16 members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:
23 three superintendents of schools, one each from an urban, suburban,
24 and rural school district; two elementary school principals, one of
25 whom is employed in a school district that provides full-day
26 kindergarten and one of whom is employed in a school district that
27 provides half-day kindergarten; two kindergarten teachers, one of
28 whom is employed in a school district that provides full-day
29 kindergarten and one of whom is employed in a school district that
30 provides half-day kindergarten; one member upon the
31 recommendation of the New Jersey Education Association; one
32 member upon the recommendation of the American Federation of
33 Teachers New Jersey; one member upon the recommendation of the
34 New Jersey School Boards Association; one member upon the
35 recommendation of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
36 Association; one member upon the recommendation of the New
37 Jersey Association of School Administrators; one member upon the
38 recommendation of the Garden State Coalition of Schools; and
39 three members of the public with demonstrated expertise in issues
40 relating to the work of the task force, at least one of whom shall be
41 a parent.

42 c. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
43 after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of
44 the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
45 appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve
46 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary
47 expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members

1 of the task force within the limits of funds appropriated or
2 otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

3

4 2. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable
5 following the appointment of its members, but no later than 60 days
6 after the effective date of this act. The task force shall choose a
7 chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a secretary
8 who need not be a member of the task force. The presence of 11
9 members of the task force shall constitute a quorum. The task force
10 may conduct business without a quorum, but may only vote on
11 recommendations when a quorum is present.

12

13 3. The Department of Education shall provide such
14 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such
15 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.
16 The task force also shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
17 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
18 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
19 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

20

21 4. The task force shall study and evaluate issues associated
22 with the establishment and implementation of full-day kindergarten
23 throughout the State, and make recommendations regarding the
24 establishment of full-day kindergarten. The task force shall study
25 and consider issues including, but not limited to, the following:

26 a. review of existing research, studies, and data concerning
27 full-day kindergarten, including studies that examine the long-term
28 academic impact of full-day kindergarten, and studies that examine
29 the social and emotional impact of full-day kindergarten;

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

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

35 d. curriculum comparisons between full-day kindergarten and
36 half-day kindergarten;

37 e. opinions and recommendations of parents and elementary
38 school teachers regarding full-day kindergarten, both in support of,
39 and opposed to, full-day kindergarten; and

40 f. the feasibility of offering full-day kindergarten in school
41 districts Statewide.

42

43 5. a. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor,
44 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
45 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one year after the task force organizes.
46 The report shall contain the task force's findings and

1 recommendations regarding the establishment of full-day
2 kindergarten.

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

5

6 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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8

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill establishes a 21-member task force to study and
12 evaluate issues associated with the establishment and
13 implementation of full-day kindergarten. The task force will be
14 comprised of: the Commissioner of Education; one public member
15 appointed by the President of the Senate; one public member
16 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one public member
17 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; one public
18 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the General
19 Assembly; and 16 members appointed by the Governor, including
20 three superintendents of schools, two elementary school principals,
21 two kindergarten teachers, one member upon the recommendation
22 of the New Jersey Education Association, one member upon the
23 recommendation of the American Federation of Teachers New
24 Jersey, one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
25 School Boards Association, one member upon the recommendation
26 of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, one
27 member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association
28 of School Administrators, one member upon the recommendation of
29 the Garden State Coalition of Schools, and three members of the
30 public, at least one of whom will be a parent. Public members
31 appointed to the task force will have expertise related to the work of
32 the task force.

33 The task force will study and consider issues including, but not
34 limited to:

- 35 - review of existing research, studies, and data concerning full-
36 day kindergarten, including studies that examine the long-
37 term academic impact and the social and emotional impact of
38 full-day kindergarten;
- 39 - implementation issues associated with full-day kindergarten,
40 including but not limited to, staffing needs, facility space,
41 and class size;
- 42 - funding needed for full-day kindergarten, including sources
43 of funding;
- 44 - curriculum comparisons between full-day kindergarten and
45 half-day kindergarten;
- 46 - opinions and recommendations of parents and elementary
47 school teachers regarding full-day kindergarten; and

- 1 - the feasibility of offering full-day kindergarten in school
- 2 districts Statewide.
- 3 The task force is required to issue a final report to the Governor
- 4 and the Legislature within one year of its organization, which
- 5 contains the task force's findings and recommendations regarding
- 6 the establishment of full-day kindergarten.