

SENATE, No. 2812

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 12, 2015

Sponsored by:

Senator PETER J. BARNES, III

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to study issues related to sexual assault on college campuses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a Task Force on Campus Sexual Assault.

2

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

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6 1. a. There is established a Task Force on Campus Sexual
7 Assault. The purpose of the task force is to study and make
8 recommendations concerning sexual assault occurring on the
9 campuses of institutions of higher education in the State.

10 b. The task force shall consist of the following 12 members:

11 (1) the Secretary of Higher Education, the Attorney General,
12 and the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, or their
13 designees;

14 (2) five members appointed by the Governor, including a
15 representative of the State colleges and universities established
16 pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, a
17 representative of the public research universities, a representative of
18 the county colleges, a representative of the independent colleges
19 and universities, and a representative of the New Jersey Coalition
20 Against Sexual Assault; and

21 (3) four members of the public with demonstrated expertise or
22 interest in issues related to the work of the task force, including at
23 least one individual who is a campus sexual assault survivor. The
24 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the
25 Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the
26 General Assembly shall each appoint one of the public members.

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

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

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42 3. The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education shall
43 provide such stenographic, clerical, and other administrative
44 assistants, and such professional staff as the task force requires to
45 carry out its work. The task force also shall be entitled to call to its
46 assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any
47 State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission,
48 or agency as it may require and as may be available for its purposes.

1 4. It shall be the duty of the task force to study and evaluate
2 current policies and practices concerning campus sexual assault, to
3 identify problems and areas for improvement, and to make
4 recommendations concerning campus sexual assault prevention,
5 response, and awareness. The task force shall:

6 a. gather information from the public institutions of higher
7 education and from a sample of independent institutions of higher
8 education in the State regarding their policies and procedures for
9 addressing campus sexual assault, and review and evaluate those
10 policies and procedures;

11 b. review current New Jersey and federal laws regarding
12 campus sexual assault;

13 c. review and evaluate existing research and literature,
14 including any national best practices, professional standards, or
15 guidelines, regarding the prevention of, and response to, incidents
16 of campus sexual assault;

17 d. consult with, and evaluate testimony from, campus sexual
18 assault survivors and advocates who provide support services to
19 campus sexual assault survivors; and

20 e. develop and issue recommendations and guidelines
21 concerning campus sexual assault in New Jersey, including
22 recommendations regarding sexual assault prevention and
23 awareness, and recommendations regarding protocols for
24 responding to reports of campus sexual assault and providing victim
25 support services.
26

27 5. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor, and
28 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
29 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one year after the task force
30 organizes. The report shall contain the task force's findings and
31 recommendations concerning campus sexual assault.
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33 6. This act shall take effect immediately, and the task force
34 shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its final report.
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37 STATEMENT
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39 This bill establishes a task force to study and make
40 recommendations concerning sexual assault occurring on the
41 campuses of institutions of higher education in the State. The task
42 force will be comprised of the following 12 members: the Secretary
43 of Higher Education, the Attorney General, and the Director of the
44 Administrative Office of the Courts, or their designees; five
45 members appointed by the Governor, including a representative of
46 the State colleges and universities, a representative of the public
47 research universities, a representative of the county colleges, a
48 representative of the independent colleges and universities, and a

1 representative of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault;
2 and four public members to be appointed by the President of the
3 Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Minority Leader
4 of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the General Assembly.
5 The public members will include at least one individual who is a
6 campus sexual assault survivor.

7 The task force will study and evaluate current policies and
8 practices concerning campus sexual assault, identify problems and
9 areas for improvement, and make recommendations concerning
10 campus sexual assault prevention, response, and awareness. More
11 specifically, the task force will:

- 12 - gather information from the public institutions of higher
13 education and from a sample of independent institutions of
14 higher education in the State regarding their policies and
15 procedures for addressing campus sexual assault, and review
16 and evaluate those policies and procedures;
- 17 - review current New Jersey and federal laws regarding
18 campus sexual assault;
- 19 - review and evaluate existing research and literature,
20 including any national best practices, professional standards,
21 or guidelines, regarding the prevention of, and response to,
22 incidents of campus sexual assault; and
- 23 - consult with, and evaluate testimony from, campus sexual
24 assault survivors and advocates who provide support services
25 to campus sexual assault survivors.

26 In addition, the task force will develop and issue
27 recommendations and guidelines regarding campus sexual assault
28 prevention and awareness, and regarding protocols for responding
29 to reports of campus sexual assault and providing victim support
30 services. The task force is required to issue a final report to the
31 Governor and the Legislature within one year of its organization,
32 which contains the task force's findings and recommendations
33 concerning campus sexual assault.