

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4539**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**217th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2017

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman PATRICIA EGAN JONES**

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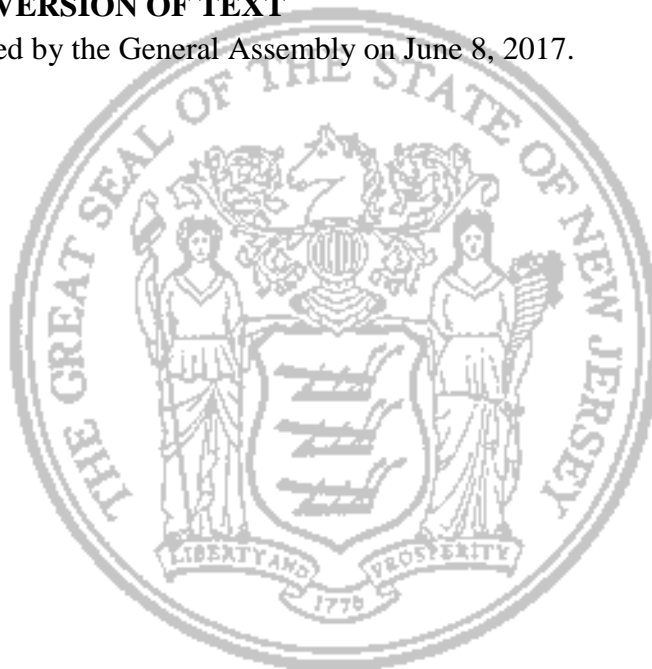
**Assemblyman Chiaravalloti and Assemblywoman McKnight**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes "New Jersey Hearing Impairment Task Force."

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the General Assembly on June 8, 2017.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/8/2017)**

1 AN ACT establishing a task force for the study of State policy  
2 regarding hearing impairment.

3

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

6

7 1. a. There is established in the Department of Human  
8 Services the “New Jersey Hearing Impairment Task Force.” The  
9 purpose of the task force shall be to study, compare, and evaluate  
10 State laws, regulations, and policies intended to improve the  
11 livelihood of individuals who have a hearing impairment, including  
12 but not limited to children, seniors, and veterans.

13 b. The task force shall consist of <sup>2</sup>~~13~~ 14<sup>2</sup> members, as  
14 follows:

15 (1) The Commissioner of Human Services, the Commissioner of  
16 Education, the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, and the  
17 Director of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, or their  
18 designees, who shall serve ex officio;

19 (2) <sup>1</sup>~~One member~~ Three public members<sup>1</sup> appointed by the  
20 President of the Senate <sup>1</sup>~~who~~ as follows: one of whom<sup>1</sup> is a  
21 person diagnosed with a hearing impairment; <sup>1</sup>one person upon the  
22 recommendation of the AARP New Jersey; and one person upon the  
23 recommendation of the AMVETS New Jersey;<sup>1</sup>

24 (3) <sup>1</sup>~~One member~~ Three public members<sup>1</sup> appointed by the  
25 Speaker of the General Assembly <sup>1</sup>~~who~~ as follows: one of whom<sup>1</sup>  
26 is a parent of a child diagnosed with a hearing impairment; <sup>1</sup>one  
27 person who is a physician with a specialty in pediatric  
28 otolaryngology; and one person who is a physician with a specialty  
29 in geriatric otolaryngology;<sup>1</sup> and

30 (4) <sup>1</sup>~~Seven~~ <sup>2</sup>~~Three~~<sup>1</sup> Four<sup>2</sup> public members appointed by the  
31 Governor, as follows: <sup>2</sup>one person upon the recommendation of the  
32 New Jersey State School Nurses Association;<sup>2</sup> one person upon the  
33 recommendation of the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing  
34 Association; one person upon the recommendation of the New  
35 Jersey Academy of Audiology;<sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup> one person upon the  
36 recommendation of the New Jersey Association of Health Hearing  
37 Professionals <sup>1</sup>~~];~~ one person upon the recommendation of the  
38 AARP New Jersey; one person upon the recommendation of the  
39 AMVETS New Jersey; one person who is a physician with a  
40 specialty in pediatric otolaryngology; and one person who is a  
41 physician with a specialty in geriatric otolaryngology<sup>1</sup>.

42 c. The public members shall serve without compensation, but  
43 may be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses incurred

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AHU committee amendments adopted March 20, 2017.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted June 8, 2017.

1 in the performance of their duties and within the limits of funds  
2 available to the task force.

3 d. <sup>1</sup>【The Commissioner of Human Services or the  
4 commissioner's designee shall serve as chairperson of the task  
5 force.】<sup>1</sup> The task force shall organize as soon as practicable  
6 following the appointment of its members, and shall select a  
7 <sup>1</sup>【vice】<sup>1</sup> chairperson from among its members. The task force may  
8 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

9 e. The task force shall meet at the call of the chairperson and  
10 hold hearings at the times and in the places it deems necessary and  
11 appropriate to fulfill its charge. The task force shall be entitled to  
12 call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of employees of  
13 any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau,  
14 commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available  
15 for its purposes.

16 f. The Department of Human Services shall provide staff  
17 support to the task force.

18

19 2. a. It shall be the duty of the New Jersey Hearing Impairment  
20 Task Force to study and assess New Jersey laws, regulations, and  
21 policies related to hearing impairment in comparison to other states,  
22 including:

23 (1) the effectiveness of New Jersey health insurance mandates  
24 related to hearing impairment in comparison to health insurance  
25 mandates in other states;

26 (2) the accessibility and effectiveness of medical testing for  
27 individuals who may have a hearing impairment;

28 (3) the accessibility of hearing aids and assistive technologies  
29 for individuals who have a hearing impairment;

30 (4) the accessibility and effectiveness of rehabilitation services  
31 for individuals who have a hearing impairment; and

32 (5) the effectiveness of educational policies on the  
33 identification, evaluation, and support of children who have a  
34 hearing impairment.

35 b. The task force shall receive reports and testimony from  
36 independent experts, other qualified individuals, and members of  
37 the public who have experience in this State or other states in  
38 evaluating the effectiveness of state policies related to hearing  
39 impairment.

40

41 3. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor, and  
42 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
43 (C.52:14-19.1) no later than 180 days after its first organizational  
44 meeting. The report shall provide a summary of the study  
45 conducted by the task force and shall enumerate any recommended  
46 changes to State law, regulation, or policy. The report shall be  
47 made available to the public through a link prominently displayed  
48 on the Governor's and the Legislature's official internet websites.

1       4. This act shall take effect <sup>2</sup>**[immediately]** on the 180<sup>th</sup> day  
2 after the date of enactment<sup>2</sup>, and sections 1 through 3 of this act  
3 shall expire upon the task force's issuance of its final report  
4 pursuant to section 3 of this act.