

**ASSEMBLY, No. 641**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes task force to determine feasibility of creating New Jersey Marine Science Institute in Atlantic County-Cape May County region.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1   **AN ACT** establishing a task force to examine the feasibility of  
2       creating a New Jersey Marine Science Institute.

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

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7       1. There is established a task force for the purpose of studying  
8       and determining the feasibility of creating a New Jersey Marine  
9       Science Institute to be located in the Atlantic County-Cape May  
10      County region. The task force shall consist of 10 members as  
11      follows: the Secretary of Higher Education, ex officio, the Secretary  
12      of Agriculture, ex officio, and the Commissioner of Environmental  
13      Protection, ex officio, or their designees; the Presidents of Rutgers,  
14      the State University, Rowan University, Stockton University, and  
15      Atlantic Cape Community College, or their designees; the  
16      Chancellor of Rutgers University-Camden, or a designee; a person  
17      with a background in marine biology or marine sciences selected by  
18      the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium; and  
19      a person with a background in marine biology or marine sciences  
20      selected by the Board of Trustees of the Center for Aquatic  
21      Sciences at Adventure Aquarium.

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23      2. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation  
24      but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
25      performance of their duties within the limits of funds made  
26      available to the task force for its purposes.

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28      3. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but no  
29      later than 60 days following the effective date of this act. The task  
30      force shall choose a chairperson from among its members and shall  
31      appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

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33      4. Staff and related support services shall be provided to the  
34      task force by the Department of Agriculture. The task force shall  
35      be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of  
36      the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board,  
37      bureau, commission or agency it may require and as may be  
38      available for its purposes.

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40      5. It shall be the duty of the task force to determine the  
41      feasibility of creating a New Jersey Marine Science Institute in the  
42      Atlantic County-Cape May County region. The task force shall  
43      elicit testimony from experts in the marine science community on  
44      the economic impact the creation of the institute would have on the  
45      region, including job creation, industry partnerships, the  
46      augmentation of existing fisheries and other aquacultural industries,  
47      and potential revenue and other benefits generated for the region's

1 coastal and marine-related industries. The task force shall also study  
2 and consider:

3 a. the amount of funding that may be necessary for the creation  
4 and ongoing operation of the institute, including the costs  
5 associated with facilities, equipment, and other resources necessary  
6 to accommodate the needs of the institute;

7 b. the potential for the institute to partner with regional  
8 institutions of higher education to conduct scientific research,  
9 promote environmental stewardship, and provide public educational  
10 programs;

11 c. other states which have established similar institutes,  
12 including the funding necessary for the creation and ongoing  
13 operation of those institutes and the impact the institutes have had  
14 on their regional economies; and

15 d. any other issues as determined by the task force associated  
16 with the establishment of the institute in the Atlantic County-Cape  
17 May County region.

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19 6. The task force shall issue a report of its findings and  
20 recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant  
21 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one  
22 year following its organizational meeting.

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24 7. This act shall take effect immediately, and the task force  
25 shall expire 30 days after the submission of its report.

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28 STATEMENT

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30 This bill establishes a 10-member task force to determine the  
31 feasibility of creating a New Jersey Marine Science Institute in the  
32 Atlantic County-Cape May County region. The task force will be  
33 composed of: the Secretary of Higher Education, the Secretary of  
34 Agriculture, and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or  
35 their designees; the Presidents of Rutgers, the State University,  
36 Rowan University, Stockton University, and Atlantic Cape  
37 Community College, or their designees; the Chancellor of Rutgers  
38 University-Camden, or his designee; a person with a background in  
39 marine biology or marine sciences selected by the Board of Trustees  
40 of the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium; and a person with a  
41 background in marine biology or marine sciences selected by the  
42 Board of Trustees of the Center for Aquatic Sciences at Adventure  
43 Aquarium.

44 Under the bill, the task force will elicit testimony from experts in  
45 the marine science community on the economic impact the creation  
46 of the institute would have on the region, including job creation,  
47 industry partnerships, the augmentation of existing fisheries and  
48 other aquacultural industries, and potential revenue and other

1 benefits generated for the region's coastal and marine-related  
2 industries.

3 The task force will also examine:

- 4 • the amount of funding that may be necessary for the creation  
5 and ongoing operation of the institute, including the costs  
6 associated with facilities, equipment, and other resources  
7 necessary to accommodate the needs of the institute;
- 8 • the potential for the institute to partner with regional  
9 institutions of higher education to conduct scientific  
10 research, promote environmental stewardship, and provide  
11 public educational programs; and
- 12 • other states which have established similar institutes,  
13 including the funding necessary for the creation and ongoing  
14 operation of those institutes and the impact the institutes  
15 have had on their regional economies.

16 The task force will issue a report of its findings and  
17 recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature no later  
18 than one year following its organizational meeting.