

ASSEMBLY, No. 1107

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

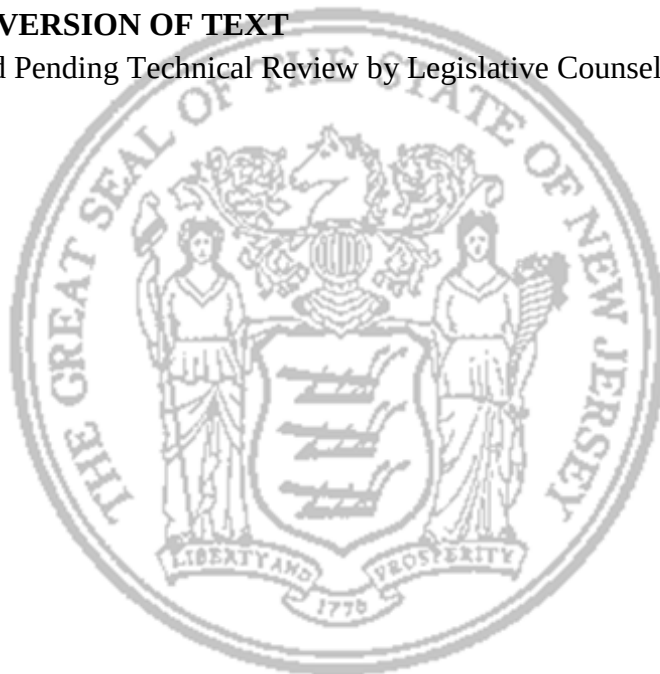
**Assemblyman Verrelli, Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblyman Moriarty,
Assemblywomen Timberlake, McKnight and Mosquera**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Task Force on Maximizing Employment for People with Disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the Task Force on Maximizing Employment
2 for People with Disabilities.

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

6
7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. National studies consistently demonstrate that individuals
9 with disabilities want to work, but their participation in the labor
10 force is astoundingly low; and

11 b. In 2015, only 38 percent of working-age individuals with
12 disabilities were employed in New Jersey, compared to a 77 percent
13 labor participation rate for the general population; and

14 c. Over 1.1 million of New Jersey's 9.0 million residents have
15 a disability; and

16 d. With more than half of the population with disabilities being
17 individuals in the working ages of 18-64, it is estimated that there
18 are over 578,000 New Jersey residents with disabilities who are of
19 working age, with more than 376,000 of them living in the
20 community and unemployed; and

21 e. Because tens of thousands of people with disabilities have
22 demonstrated the capacity to do competitive work when given the
23 opportunity, their desire for the dignity of a job and a paycheck
24 must not be ignored; and

25 f. It is therefore appropriate to establish a task force to study
26 the problem of unemployment and underemployment among New
27 Jersey citizens with disabilities, review existing programs in this
28 and other states, and issue a report with recommendations to
29 increase opportunities, expand employment readiness and training
30 programs, and increase employment supports for those individuals.

31
32 2. a. There is established, in the Department of Labor and
33 Workforce Development, the Task Force on Maximizing
34 Employment for People with Disabilities. The task force shall
35 consist of 14 members, including one representative each for the
36 Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department
37 of Education, New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities,
38 the State Rehabilitation Council, the Office of the Ombudsman for
39 Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their
40 Families, and the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce
41 Development, who shall serve ex officio, and eight members
42 appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the
43 Senate as follows: a member representing ACCSES NJ; a member
44 representing the New Jersey Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association;
45 a member representing the business community; a member
46 representing the New Jersey Food Council; a member representing
47 The Arc of New Jersey; a representative of a community
48 rehabilitation program; and two individuals who have a disability.
49 The appointments shall expire upon the submission of a report to

1 the Governor and Legislature pursuant to subsection c. of this
2 section.

3 b. The purpose of the task force is to study the problem of
4 unemployment and underemployment among individuals with
5 disabilities, review relevant, available programs within the State of
6 New Jersey, as well as in other states, and issue a report which
7 offers a vision and provides viable recommendations on how the
8 State can increase opportunities, expand employment readiness and
9 training programs, and offer greater employment supports, for
10 individuals with disabilities.

11 c. The task force shall issue the report to the Governor and
12 Legislature not later than one year after the members of the
13 commission are appointed, and make the report available to the
14 public by means including the posting of the report on the web sites
15 of the State agencies represented on the task force.

16

17 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

18

19

20 STATEMENT

21

22 This bill establishes a Task Force on Maximizing Employment for
23 People with Disabilities. The task force is directed to study and make
24 recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding the
25 problem of unemployment and underemployment among disabled
26 individuals in the State. The task force will have 14 members,
27 including one representative each from the Department of Labor and
28 Workforce Development, the Department of Education, New Jersey
29 Council on Developmental Disabilities, the State Rehabilitation
30 Council, the Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals with
31 Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their Families, and the
32 John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, who shall serve
33 ex officio, and eight members appointed by the Governor with the
34 advice and consent of the Senate as follows: a member representing
35 ACCSES NJ; a member representing the New Jersey Psychiatric
36 Rehabilitation Association; a member representing the business
37 community; a representative of the New Jersey Food Council; a
38 member representing The Arc of New Jersey; a representative of a
39 community rehabilitation program; and two individuals who have
40 disabilities.

41 The task force is directed to study the problem of unemployment
42 among individuals who have disabilities, review existing programs in
43 this and other states, and issue a report which provides a vision and
44 recommendations on how the State can increase opportunities, expand
45 employment readiness and training programs and offer greater
46 employment supports for individuals with disabilities. The report is to
47 be issued to the Governor, the Legislature, and the public not later than
48 one year after the members of the commission are appointed. The
appointments will expire upon the submission of the report.