

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1124

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman McKnight**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Planning for an Aging Population Task Force.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)**

1 AN ACT establishing a temporary task force to study and propose a  
2 plan of action to address potential concerns associated with the  
3 growth of the State's aging population.  
4

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

7  
8 1. a. There is established the "Planning for an Aging  
9 Population Task Force." The purpose of the task force shall be to  
10 study and identify concerns related to the growth of the State's  
11 aging population, and develop and recommend a plan of action that  
12 is designed to prepare and enable the State to appropriately respond  
13 to the ongoing growth in this population and ensure that senior  
14 citizens in New Jersey continue to have sufficient access to  
15 necessary programs, services, and supports in both the near and  
16 long-term future.

17 b. The Planning for an Aging Population Task Force shall  
18 consist of 23 members, including 16 ex officio members or their  
19 designees, as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection, and  
20 seven public members, as provided in paragraph (2) of this  
21 subsection.

22 (1) The 16 ex officio members of the task force shall include the  
23 following persons, or their designees: the Commissioner of Health,  
24 the Commissioner of Human Services, the New Jersey Long Term  
25 Care Ombudsman, the President of the New Jersey Health Care  
26 Quality Institute, the Director of the Division of Aging Services in  
27 the Department of Human Services, the Director of the Office of  
28 Minority and Multicultural Health in the Department of Health, the  
29 Director of the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services  
30 in the Department of Human Services, the Director of the Office of  
31 Area Agencies on Aging Administration in the Department of  
32 Human Services, the Director of the Office of the Public Guardian  
33 for the Elderly in the Department of Human Services, the President  
34 of the New Jersey chapter of the AARP, the Executive Director of  
35 the National Alliance on Mental Illness New Jersey, the Executive  
36 Director of Disability Rights New Jersey, the President of the Home  
37 Care and Hospice Association of New Jersey, the President of  
38 LeadingAge New Jersey, the President of the Alzheimer's  
39 Association Greater New Jersey Chapter, and the Executive  
40 Director of Caregivers of New Jersey.

41 (2) The seven public members of the task force shall be  
42 appointed by the Governor, and shall include one representative  
43 from a local office on aging in each of the northern, central, and  
44 southern regions of the State; two senior citizens who are 65 years  
45 of age or older; and two caregivers of senior citizens who are 65  
46 years of age or older.

47 c. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled  
48 in the same manner provided for the original appointments.

1 d. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but not  
2 later than the 30th day following the appointment of its members.  
3 Upon its organization, the task force shall select a chairperson from  
4 among its membership, and the chairperson shall appoint a  
5 secretary, who need not be a member of the task force.

6 e. The task force may meet and hold hearings at the times and  
7 places it may designate, but shall hold at least one hearing in each  
8 of the northern, central, and southern regions of the State. The task  
9 force may conduct business without a quorum, but may only vote  
10 on recommendations when a quorum is present.

11 f. The members of the task force shall serve without  
12 compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other  
13 miscellaneous expenses incurred in the necessary performance of  
14 their duties, within the limits of funds made available to the task  
15 force for its purposes.

16 g. The task force shall be entitled to receive assistance and  
17 services from any State, county, or municipal department, board,  
18 commission, or agency, as it may require, and as may be available  
19 to it for its purposes. The task force shall further be authorized to  
20 consult with, and receive testimony from, any association,  
21 organization, department, or individual having knowledge of, or  
22 experience with, issues related to aging, or matters affecting senior  
23 citizens or their caregivers.

24 h. The Department of Human Services shall provide  
25 professional and clerical staff to the task force, as may be necessary  
26 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

27 i. The task force may solicit, receive, and expend any grant  
28 moneys or other funds that may be made available for its purposes  
29 by any government agency or any private for-profit or not-for-profit  
30 organization or entity.

31

32 2. a. The Planning for an Aging Population Task Force shall  
33 have the duty to:

34 (1) Analyze population data, demographic data, and other  
35 appropriate data points for New Jersey to: (a) identify the current  
36 number, percentage, location, and density of senior citizens residing  
37 in the State; and (b) estimate the extent to which the senior citizen  
38 population in New Jersey will grow or otherwise change in the near  
39 to long-term future;

40 (2) Identify, and compile an inventory of, existing State, local,  
41 and non-profit resources, programs, and services that are available  
42 to senior citizens in the State;

43 (3) Analyze the nature and severity of illnesses or conditions  
44 commonly suffered by senior citizens in the State, and evaluate the  
45 State's capacity to timely and humanely provide physical and  
46 mental health care, including home health care, and other necessary  
47 services to a growing population of senior citizens suffering from  
48 such ailments;

1 (4) Consult with, and solicit and review information and data  
2 maintained by, the Department of Labor and the Department of  
3 Community Affairs, as may be necessary to identify the potential  
4 impacts on the State's labor and housing markets that may result  
5 from the ongoing growth of the State's aging population. The  
6 Departments of Labor and Community Affairs shall provide the task  
7 force with any information or data requested thereby for the  
8 purposes of this paragraph;

9 (5) Solicit and receive testimony from senior citizens and the  
10 caregivers of senior citizens, from health care professionals and  
11 other service providers, and from representatives of relevant  
12 organizations, associations, and executive departments, on the  
13 following topics: (a) the nature, extent, quality, accessibility, and  
14 sufficiency of home health care, telemedicine-based health services,  
15 and other physical and mental health care services, day programs  
16 and other community-based programs and services, nursing home  
17 care, hospice care, and other long-term health care services, social  
18 service programs and benefits programs, personal caregiver  
19 services, non-institutional housing and independent senior living  
20 opportunities, and transportation services that are currently  
21 available for senior citizens in the State, and the ways in which such  
22 programs, services, and housing can be modified, expanded, or  
23 improved to accommodate the growing aging population; (b) the  
24 personal financial costs associated with aging, including, but not  
25 limited to, the loss or expenditure of income associated with  
26 retirement from the workforce or the death of an income-earning  
27 spouse, the loss or expenditure of income and assets required for  
28 senior citizens to receive financial, nutritional, or other federal or  
29 State benefits, the out-of-pocket costs expended by senior citizens  
30 in association with the ongoing receipt of physical and mental  
31 health care, including home-based care, nursing home or other  
32 institutional care, and personal care; (c) the costs to the State, and  
33 the impacts to State and local policies, procedures, methodologies,  
34 and labor, housing, and other markets that may result from the  
35 ongoing growth of the aging population; and (d) any other topic that  
36 is relevant to the task force's work; and

37 (6) Develop and propose a Statewide plan of action that will  
38 enable the State to proactively address the problems and concerns  
39 identified by the task force and be better prepared to effectively,  
40 efficiently, and humanely serve the growing aging population in  
41 New Jersey in both the near and long-term future.

42 b. (1) Not later than 18 months after the task force is  
43 organized pursuant to section 2 of this act, it shall prepare and  
44 submit to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,  
45 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, a written report of its  
46 findings and recommendations relating to the growth of the aging  
47 population in the State and the problems that may result from this  
48 growing population, and a copy of the Statewide plan of action that

1 has been proposed by the task force pursuant to paragraph (4) of  
2 subsection a. of this section.

3 (2) The written report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) of  
4 this subsection shall include, at a minimum, the following  
5 information: (a) depersonalized statistical data indicating the total  
6 number, percentage, regional location, and residential density of  
7 senior citizens currently residing in the State; (b) estimated  
8 projections indicating the extent to which the State's aging  
9 population is likely to grow, and the specific regions of the State  
10 that are likely to experience the largest amount of growth in the  
11 aging population, in both the near and long-term future; (c) a  
12 description of the nature and sufficiency of federal, State, and local  
13 programs and services that are currently available to address the  
14 health care, social service, housing, labor, and transportation needs  
15 of senior citizens in New Jersey, and the capacity of such existing  
16 programs and services to adapt to and accommodate prospective  
17 growth in the aging population; (d) a description of the financial  
18 and other limitations that may prevent the State from providing  
19 adequate programs and services to the growing population of senior  
20 citizens in both the near and long-term future; (e) a description of  
21 the concerns, and any potential solutions to those concerns, that  
22 were elucidated by the task force in testimony received under  
23 paragraph (5) of subsection a. of this section; (f) a description of  
24 how the State's labor and housing markets will be affected by rapid  
25 growth in the aging population; and (g) recommendations for  
26 legislation or regulatory or programmatic changes that would be  
27 necessary to implement the task force's recommended plan of  
28 action to address the issues that may be associated with the  
29 continued growth of the aging population in the State.

30 c. The task force shall dissolve on the 30th day following the  
31 submission of its written report and proposed plan of action  
32 prepared pursuant to this section.  
33

34 3. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire on  
35 the 30th day following the submission of the task force's written  
36 report and proposed plan of action to the Governor and the  
37 Legislature, as provided by section 2 of this act.  
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39

40 STATEMENT  
41

42 This bill would establish the "Planning for an Aging Population  
43 Task Force." The purpose of the task force would be to study and  
44 identify concerns related to the growth of the State's aging  
45 population, and develop and recommend a plan of action that is  
46 designed to prepare and enable the State to appropriately respond to  
47 the ongoing growth in this population and ensure that senior  
48 citizens in New Jersey continue to have sufficient access to

1 necessary programs, services, and supports in both the near and  
2 long-term future.

3 The Planning for an Aging Population Task Force will consist of  
4 23 members, including 16 ex officio members or their designees,  
5 and seven public members, each of whom will have experience and  
6 expertise in issues related to aging.

7 The task force may meet and hold hearings at the times and  
8 places it may designate, but will be required to hold at least one  
9 hearing in each of the northern, central, and southern regions of the  
10 State.

11 The Planning for an Aging Population Task Force will have the  
12 duty to:

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14 appropriate data points for New Jersey to: identify the current  
15 number, percentage, location, and density of senior citizens residing  
16 in the State, and estimate the extent to which the senior citizen  
17 population in New Jersey will grow or otherwise change in the near  
18 to long-term future;

19 2) Identify, and compile an inventory of, existing State, local,  
20 and non-profit resources, programs, and services that are available  
21 to senior citizens in the State;

22 3) Analyze the nature and severity of illnesses or conditions  
23 commonly suffered by senior citizens in the State, and evaluate the  
24 State's capacity to timely and humanely provide physical and  
25 mental health care, including home health care, and other necessary  
26 services to a growing population of senior citizens suffering from  
27 such ailments;

28 4) Consult with, and solicit and review information and data  
29 maintained by, the Department of Labor and the Department of  
30 Community Affairs, as may be necessary to identify the potential  
31 impacts on the State's labor and housing markets that may result  
32 from the ongoing growth of the State's aging population. The  
33 Departments of Labor and Community Affairs shall provide the task  
34 force with any information or data requested thereby for the  
35 purposes of this paragraph;

36 5) Solicit and receive testimony from senior citizens and the  
37 caregivers of senior citizens, from health care professionals and  
38 other service providers, and from representatives of relevant  
39 organizations, associations, and executive departments, on topics  
40 related to aging; and

41 6) Develop and propose a Statewide plan of action that will  
42 enable the State to proactively address the problems and concerns  
43 identified by the task force and be better prepared to effectively,  
44 efficiently, and humanely serve the growing aging population in  
45 New Jersey in both the near and long-term future.

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47 be required to prepare and submit to the Governor and the

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1 Legislature: 1) a written report of its findings and  
2 recommendations relating to the growth of the aging population in  
3 the State and the problems that may result from this growing  
4 population; and 2) a copy of the Statewide plan of action that has  
5 been proposed by the task force. The task force will dissolve on the  
6 30th day following the submission of the written report and  
7 proposed plan of action.