

ASSEMBLY, No. 1157

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Armato

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to study impact of minimum wage increases on businesses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a task force to study the impact of minimum
2 wage increases on businesses.

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 but not of the Department of
8 Labor and Workforce Development, the “Task Force on Wages and
9 Economic Stability.” The task force shall consist of 11 members,
10 including the Commissioners of Health, Human Services,
11 Education, Community Affairs, and Labor and Workforce
12 Development, and the State Treasurer, or their designees, all who
13 shall serve ex officio, and five public members appointed by the
14 Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate as follows: four
15 people nominated by an organization which represents the interests
16 of the business community in this State and one person nominated
17 by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO. All members shall serve for the
18 duration of the task force, which shall terminate upon the expiration
19 of the scheduled increases to the minimum wage pursuant to
20 P.L.2019, c.32. Any public member of the task force may be
21 removed from office by the Governor, for cause, upon notice and
22 opportunity to be heard. Vacancies shall be filled in the same
23 manner as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired
24 term. A member shall continue to serve upon the expiration of the
25 member’s term until a successor is appointed and qualified, unless
26 the member is removed by the Governor.

27 b. Action may be taken by the task force by an affirmative vote
28 of a majority of its members and a majority of the task force shall
29 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, for the
30 performance of any duty, or for the exercise of any power of the
31 task force. Members of the task force shall serve without
32 compensation, but may be reimbursed for the actual and necessary
33 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of
34 the task force within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise
35 made available for that purpose.

36 c. The task force shall conduct an impact study to evaluate how
37 changes in required minimum wage levels pursuant to P.L.2019,
38 c.32 may affect the business community in the State, including the
39 ability of businesses to maintain and increase employment levels,
40 the necessity of businesses to reduce hours of employees, any
41 transition of a service provided by an employee of a business to an
42 automated system, any change in profits of businesses, any increase
43 or decrease in businesses terminating operations, any increase or
44 decrease in businesses commencing operations, and any other
45 information as may be relevant to the economic stability of the
46 State. The task force shall produce annual reports of its findings,
47 making cumulative findings over the course of its study, which shall
48 include any recommendations the task force deems appropriate for

1 adjustments to the minimum wage increases, to ensure that the
2 minimum wage increases do not impact the business community in
3 a manner that would result in an overall net detriment to the State
4 and its residents.

5 d. In furtherance of its evaluation, the task force may hold
6 public meetings or hearings within the State and call to its
7 assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any
8 other State department, board, or agency which the task force
9 determines possesses relevant data, analytical and professional
10 expertise or other resources which may assist the task force in
11 discharging its duties under this section. Each department, board,
12 or agency of this State is hereby directed, to the extent not
13 inconsistent with law, to cooperate fully with the task force and to
14 furnish such information and assistance as is necessary to
15 accomplish the purposes of this section.

16 e. The task force shall issue its first annual report to the
17 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
18 19.1), to the Legislature not later than December 31, 2019, and
19 make the report available to the public by means including the
20 posting of the report on the web sites of all of the State departments
21 represented on the task force. The task force shall issue subsequent
22 annual reports and make those reports available to the public not
23 later than December 31 of each respective year, each of which shall
24 include a cumulative review of all information gathered by the task
25 force, together with an evaluation of the cumulative efficacy of
26 minimum wage increases on creating an overall net benefit for the
27 State and its residents by considering whether the increases
28 negatively impact the economic stability of the State.

29
30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

31 32 33 STATEMENT 34

35 This bill establishes the "Task Force on Wages and Economic
36 Stability" in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
37 The purpose of the task force is to evaluate how changes in required
38 minimum wage levels may affect the business community in the
39 State, including the ability of businesses to maintain and increase
40 employment levels, the necessity of businesses to reduce hours of
41 employees, any transition of a service provided by an employee of a
42 business to an automated system, any change in profits of
43 businesses, any increase or decrease in businesses terminating
44 operations, and any other information as may be relevant to
45 economic stability of the State.

46 The task force will consist of 11 members, including the
47 Commissioners of Health, Human Services, Education, Community
48 Affairs, and Labor and Workforce Development, and the State

1 Treasurer, or their designees, all who shall serve ex officio, and five
2 public members appointed by the Governor with the advice and
3 consent of the Senate. The five public members will be appointed as
4 follows: four people nominated by an organization which represents
5 the interests of the business community in this State and one person
6 nominated by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO.

7 The task force is required to issue its first annual report to the
8 Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2019, and make the
9 report available to the public. The task force is required to issue
10 subsequent annual reports by December 31 of each subsequent
11 respective year, each of which will include a cumulative review of
12 all information gathered by the task force.