

[First Reprint]

## **ASSEMBLY, No. 1597**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

## **219th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman PEDRO MEJIA**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE**

**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblyman Scharfenberger,**

**Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblymen Conaway, Tully,**

**Assemblywomen Swain, Lampitt, Assemblymen Benson, McKeon,**

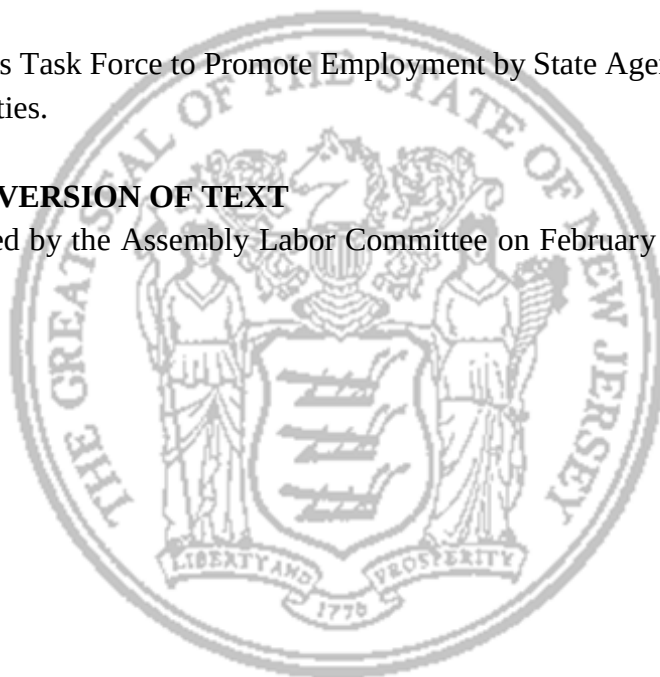
**Houghtaling and Assemblywoman Downey**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Task Force to Promote Employment by State Agencies of People with Disabilities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Labor Committee on February 24, 2021, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)**

1 **AN ACT** establishing the Task Force to Promote the Employment by  
 2 State Agencies of People with Disabilities and supplementing  
 3 Title 34 of the Revised Statutes.  
 4  
 5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
 6 *of New Jersey:*  
 7  
 8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:  
 9 a. More than 19 million people in the United States work in  
 10 state and local governments, and more than 570,000 people have  
 11 public sector jobs in New Jersey, including 130,000 State  
 12 government employees, employed in a wide variety of jobs and  
 13 occupations, including accountants, corrections officers, mail  
 14 clerks, chaplains, social workers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and  
 15 computer programmers;  
 16 b. People with disabilities can benefit from the experience of  
 17 employment in State agencies, gaining skills and receiving benefits  
 18 through both internships and employment in the public sector and  
 19 the State can benefit from the contributions that they can make as  
 20 State employees;  
 21 c. Nine states have instituted within their human resources  
 22 agencies policies and programs that foster the inclusion of people  
 23 with disabilities into state government jobs, including provisional  
 24 appointments, alternative examination and interview processes, trial  
 25 work periods, and special appointment lists;  
 26 d. As a leading employer, and as an employer providing many  
 27 well-paid, quality jobs with ample paid time off and medical and  
 28 pension benefits, the State of New Jersey can set an important  
 29 example to other employers, especially private sector employers, by  
 30 increasing its efforts to recruit and retain in employment individuals  
 31 with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and  
 32 e. It is therefore appropriate to establish a Task Force to  
 33 Promote the Employment by State Agencies of People with  
 34 Disabilities for the purposes of studying the problem of  
 35 unemployment and underemployment among individuals in New  
 36 Jersey with disabilities, reviewing existing programs in this and  
 37 other states, and private sector companies, to recruit and retain in  
 38 employment individuals with intellectual and developmental  
 39 disabilities, and assisting in the identification and implementation  
 40 of strategies to expand efforts of New Jersey State agencies to  
 41 recruit and retain in employment individuals with disabilities,  
 42 including by providing guidance and support to agencies and  
 43 institutions of higher education.

**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 ALA committee amendments adopted February 24, 2021.

1       2. a. There is established, in the Department of Labor and  
2 Workforce Development, the Task Force to Promote the  
3 Employment by State Agencies of People with Disabilities. The  
4 task force shall consist of 13 members, including one representative  
5 each for the Civil Service Commission, the Department of  
6 Education, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development,  
7 the State Treasurer, the Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals  
8 with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their Families,  
9 the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the State  
10 Rehabilitation Council, and the John J. Heldrich Center for  
11 Workforce Development, who shall serve ex officio, and five  
12 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of  
13 the Senate as follows: a member representing the Association for  
14 Choices in Community Supports and Employment Services  
15 (ACCSES New Jersey); a member representing The Arc of New  
16 Jersey; a representative of a community rehabilitation program, and  
17 two individuals who have a disability.

18       b. All appointments shall be made within 90 days after the  
19 effective date of this act. The appointed members of the task force  
20 shall serve for terms of three years. Vacancies in the membership  
21 of the appointed members of the task force shall be filled in the  
22 same manner as the original appointments.

23       c. 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 as members of the task force, within the  
26 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task  
27 force for its purposes.

28       d. The task force shall organize as soon as possible after the  
29 appointments are made and select a chairperson from among its  
30 members. The task force shall meet at least quarterly, may hold  
31 meetings and hearings at places and times as it designates, and may  
32 meet at any other times at the call of the chairperson. No action  
33 shall be taken by the task force except by an affirmative vote of a  
34 majority of the voting members.

35  
36       3. a. The purpose of the task force is to study the problem of  
37 unemployment and underemployment among individuals with  
38 disabilities, review relevant, available programs within the State of  
39 New Jersey for State <sup>1</sup>and local government<sup>1</sup> agencies to recruit<sup>1</sup>,  
40 hire,<sup>1</sup> and retain in employment individuals with intellectual and  
41 developmental disabilities, as well as similar programs in other states  
42 and private sector employers, and assist in the identification and  
43 implementation of strategies to expand efforts of New Jersey State  
44 <sup>1</sup>and local government<sup>1</sup> agencies to recruit<sup>1</sup>, hire,<sup>1</sup> and retain in  
45 employment individuals with disabilities.

46       b. The task force shall issue annual reports which offer a vision  
47 and provide viable recommendations on how the State can increase  
48 opportunities for employment for individuals with <sup>1</sup>intellectual and

1 developmental<sup>1</sup> disabilities by expanding efforts of New Jersey State  
2 'and local government'<sup>1</sup> agencies to **'[recruit and retain]** promote the  
3 employment of such individuals by recruiting, hiring, and retaining  
4 them<sup>1</sup> in employment **'[those individuals]'**<sup>1</sup>, including by providing  
5 guidance and support to agencies and institutions of higher education.  
6 c. The task force shall issue its first report to the Governor and  
7 Legislature not later than one year after the members of the task force  
8 are appointed. Each annual report shall be made available to the  
9 public by means including the posting of the report on the web sites of  
10 the State agencies represented on the task force.  
11  
12 4. This act shall take effect immediately.