

ASSEMBLY, No. 1627

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to examine and make recommendations regarding professional development requirements for public school teachers and school leaders.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a task force to examine professional
2 development requirements for teachers and school leaders.

3

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

6

7 1. a. There is created a task force for the purpose of
8 examining, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding the
9 current professional development requirements for public school
10 teachers and school leaders as established pursuant to State statutes
11 and State Board of Education regulations.

12 b. The task force shall consist of the following 10 members:

13 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee;

14 (2) six members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:
15 one member upon the recommendation of the American Federation
16 of Teachers New Jersey; one member upon the recommendation of
17 the New Jersey School Boards Association; one member upon the
18 recommendation of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
19 Association; one member upon the recommendation of the New
20 Jersey Association of School Administrators; one member upon the
21 recommendation of the New Jersey Education Association; and one
22 member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Parent
23 Teacher Association; and

24 (3) three members of the public, each of whom has specialized
25 knowledge or expertise in issues related to the work of the task
26 force. One of the public members shall be appointed by the
27 Governor, one shall be appointed by the Senate President, and one
28 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

29 Members appointed pursuant to this subsection, where
30 applicable, shall be individuals who are subject to the State
31 professional development requirements for public school teachers
32 or school leaders.

33 c. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
34 of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of the
35 task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
36 appointments were made.

37 d. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
38 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the
39 performance of their duties as members of the task force within the
40 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
41 force for its purposes.

42

43 2. a. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but
44 no later than 30 days following the appointment of its members.
45 The task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members
46 and shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task
47 force.

b. The Department of Education shall provide such stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work. The task force also shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available for its purposes.

9 3. It shall be the duty of the task force to study, evaluate, and
10 make recommendations regarding the State-mandated professional
11 development requirements for public school teachers and school
12 leaders in New Jersey. The task force shall:

a. study the current professional development requirements for public school teachers and school leaders established pursuant to State statutes and State Board of Education regulations;

b. evaluate the scope of the current professional development requirements including, but not limited to, an assessment of the particular topics covered, the overall number of requirements, and the hours and frequency of the requirements; and

c. make recommendations concerning professional development for public school teachers and school leaders including, but not limited to, recommendations regarding the necessity and relevance of the trainings currently required, whether the requirements may be overly burdensome in number or frequency, whether more or less time should be devoted to particular subject matters, and topics not covered that may be advisable to include in the requirements.

4. The task force shall issue a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12 months after the task force organizes.

5. This act shall take effect immediately, and the task force shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its report.

STATEMENT

40 This bill establishes a ten-member task force to examine,
41 evaluate, and make recommendations regarding the current
42 professional development requirements for public school teachers
43 and school leaders in New Jersey. The task force will consist of the
44 Commissioner of Education or a designee; six members appointed
45 by the Governor, who will include one member upon the
46 recommendation of the American Federation of Teachers New
47 Jersey, one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
48 School Boards Association, one member upon the recommendation

1 of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, one
2 member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association
3 of School Administrators, one member upon the recommendation of
4 the New Jersey Education Association, and one member upon the
5 recommendation of the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association; and
6 three members of the public who have specialized knowledge or
7 expertise in issues related to the work of the task force. The
8 Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the General
9 Assembly will each appoint one of the public members. Appointed
10 members of the task force, where applicable, will be individuals
11 who are subject to the State professional development requirements
12 for public school teachers or school leaders.

13 Under the bill, the task force is charged with studying,
14 evaluating, and making recommendations regarding the State-
15 mandated professional development requirements for public school
16 teachers and school leaders in New Jersey. The task force will:

- 17 • study the current professional development requirements for
18 public school teachers and school leaders established
19 pursuant to State statutes and State Board of Education
20 regulations;
- 21 • evaluate the scope of the current professional development
22 requirements including, but not limited to, an assessment of
23 the particular topics covered, the overall number of
24 requirements, and the hours and frequency of the
25 requirements; and
- 26 • make recommendations concerning professional
27 development for public school teachers and school leaders
28 including, but not limited to, recommendations regarding the
29 necessity and relevance of the trainings currently required,
30 whether the requirements may be overly burdensome in
31 number or frequency, whether more or less time should be
32 devoted to particular subject matters, and topics not covered
33 that may be advisable to include in the requirements.

34 The task force is required to issue a final report of its findings
35 and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature within 12
36 months of its organization.