

ASSEMBLY, No. 1913

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

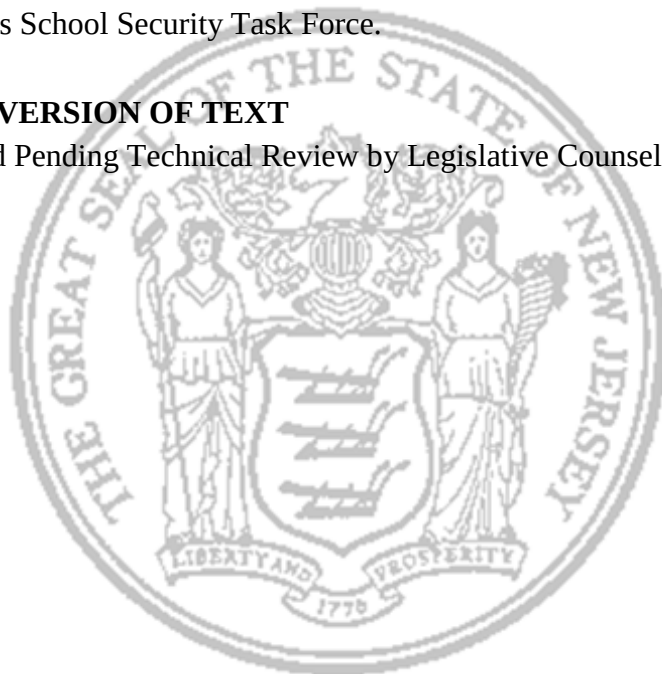
Assemblywoman Jimenez, Assemblyman Danielsen, Assemblywoman Speight, Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblyman Chiaravalloti, Assemblywomen Jasey, Carter, McKnight, Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblymen DiMaio, Peterson, Assemblywoman B.DeCroce and Assemblyman Spearman

SYNOPSIS

Establishes School Security Task Force.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a School Security Task Force.

2

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

5

6 1. There is established a School Security Task Force. The
7 purpose of the task force shall be to study the current state of school
8 security and develop recommendations to improve school security
9 and safety, and ensure a safe learning environment for students and
10 school employees. The task force shall build upon the findings and
11 recommendations included in the New Jersey School Security Task
12 Force Report, issued in July 2015 pursuant to P.L.2013, c.142.

13

14 2. The task force shall consist of the following 11 members:

15 a. the Commissioner of Education, the Director of the Office of
16 Homeland Security and Preparedness, and the Chief Executive
17 Officer of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority, or their
18 designees;

19 b. Eight members who shall be appointed no later than the 30th
20 day after the effective date of this act, as follows:

21 (1) four members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:
22 one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
23 Association of School Business Officials, one member upon the
24 recommendation of the New Jersey Education Association, one
25 member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey School
26 Boards Association, and one member upon the recommendation of
27 the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; and

28 (2) four members of the public, two selected by the Governor
29 who have demonstrated expertise in the development or
30 implementation of school security standards or technology, one
31 selected by the President of the Senate, and one selected by the
32 Speaker of the General Assembly.

33

34 3. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled
35 in the same manner as the original appointments were made.
36 Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but
37 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the
38 performance of their duties as members of the task force within the
39 limit of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
40 force for its purposes.

41

42 4. The task force shall organize as soon as may be practicable
43 after the appointment of its members, but no later than 60 days
44 following the effective date of this act. The task force shall choose
45 a chairperson from among its members, and shall appoint a
46 secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

1 issuance of its final report in July of 2015. Under that law, the
2 purpose of the task force was to study and develop
3 recommendations to improve school security and safety, and to
4 ensure a safe learning environment for students and school
5 employees. The task force's final report included 42
6 recommendations aimed at enhancing safety and security in New
7 Jersey schools. Since the issuance of the report, several of the
8 recommendations put forth by the task force have been signed into
9 law.

10 The School Security Task Force established under this bill will
11 have a focus on reexamining the current state of school security in
12 New Jersey and building upon the steps made to enhance school
13 security since the release of the July 2015 New Jersey School
14 Security Task Force Report. The task force will assess overall
15 school security needs, identify physical and cyber vulnerabilities
16 and potential breaches of security in schools, make
17 recommendations to improve school safety and security, and
18 provide updates on the status of the implementation of the
19 recommendations provided in the July 2015 School Security Task
20 Force Report. Additionally, the task force will identify and put
21 forth recommendations regarding any new and emerging school
22 security issues that were not detailed in that report.

23 The task force will consist of 11 members, namely: the
24 Commissioner of Education; the Director of the Office of Homeland
25 Security and Preparedness; the Chief Executive Officer of the New
26 Jersey Schools Development Authority; four members appointed
27 by the Governor, each as recommended by the New Jersey
28 Association of School Business Officials, the New Jersey Education
29 Association, the New Jersey School Boards Association, and the
30 New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; and four
31 members of the public, who include two members selected by the
32 Governor with demonstrated expertise in the development or
33 implementation of school security standards or technology, one
34 selected by the President of the Senate, and one selected by the
35 Speaker of the General Assembly.

36 The task force is required to issue a final report to the Governor,
37 the Legislature, and the State Board of Education within six months
38 of its organizational meeting. The report is to contain its findings
39 and determinations, including any recommendations for legislation
40 or regulations that it deems appropriate.