

ASSEMBLY, No. 1981

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Kennedy, Calabrese, Assemblywoman Jimenez and

Assemblyman McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Plastic Pollution Task Force” to study ways to reduce and address plastic pollution.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/27/2021)

1 **AN ACT** establishing a “Plastic Pollution Task Force.”

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

5

6 1. a. There is established in the Department of Environmental
7 Protection the “Plastic Pollution Task Force.” The purpose of the
8 task force shall be to develop a comprehensive plastic pollution
9 management report. The task force shall:

10 (1) study the most efficient means of reducing plastic pollution
11 in the State and its waters;

12 (2) develop uniform policies for the State and local government
13 units to address plastic pollution, and a for a coordinated response
14 to the threat posed by plastic pollution to the State’s ecological and
15 environmental resources;

16 (3) prepare a comprehensive plastic pollution management
17 report; and

18 (4) make recommendations for legislative, regulatory, and local
19 government unit actions necessary to reduce plastic pollution in the
20 State.

21 b. The task force shall be comprised of five members as
22 follows:

23 (1) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, who shall
24 serve ex officio and who shall serve as chairperson of the task
25 force, or the commissioner’s designee;

26 (2) the Commissioner of Health, who shall serve ex officio, or
27 the commissioner’s designee;

28 (3) three members of the public appointed by the Governor as
29 follows:

30 (a) one member of the State’s business community with
31 expertise, knowledge, or experience in plastic recycling and
32 disposal;

33 (b) one member from the State’s academic community with
34 expertise, knowledge, and experience in environmental protection,
35 ecology, or plastic pollution mitigation; and

36 (c) one member from a Statewide or national environmental
37 organization with expertise, knowledge, or experience in
38 environmental protection, ecology, or plastic pollution mitigation.

39 c. All appointments to the task force shall be made no later
40 than 90 days after the effective date of this act. Each member shall
41 serve for the duration of the task force, and vacancies shall be filled
42 in the same manner as the original appointments. The members of
43 the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be
44 eligible for reimbursement for necessary and reasonable expenses
45 incurred in the performance of their official duties within the limits
46 of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force
47 for its purposes.

1 d. A majority of the membership of the task force shall
2 constitute a quorum for the transaction of task force business.

3 e. The Department of Environmental Protection shall provide
4 staff support to the task force. The task force shall be entitled to
5 call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees
6 of any State department, board, bureau, commission or agency, as it
7 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

8 f. The task force shall dissolve on the 60th day after the date of
9 submission of the plastic pollution management report to the
10 Governor and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of this act.

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12 2. a. No later than one year after the task force organizes, the
13 task force shall prepare and submit a comprehensive plastic
14 pollution management report of its findings, plans, and
15 recommendations. The task force shall submit the report to the
16 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
17 19.1), the Legislature. The report shall include, but need not be
18 limited to, recommendations about how the State and its local units
19 may:

- 20 (1) reduce the amount of plastic entering the waste stream;
21 (2) reduce and remove existing plastic pollution;
22 (3) address microplastic pollution in the State's waterways;
23 (4) restore ecosystems that have been damaged by plastic
24 pollution to their natural condition;
25 (5) estimate the resources necessary for implementation of
26 suggested policies.

27 b. The report shall also include specific legislative
28 recommendations, suggested regulatory action, including suggested
29 rules and regulations, and model ordinances that are necessary to
30 implement the recommendations in the report.

31 c. In formulating recommendations, the task force shall
32 consider existing State and local programs to mitigate plastic
33 pollution, financial and market tools that may be employed to help
34 reduce plastic pollution, educational programs, and any other tool
35 or resource the task force deems effective to combat plastic
36 pollution in the State.

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38 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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43 This bill would establish a "Plastic Pollution Task Force" in the
44 Department of Environmental Protection responsible for creating a
45 comprehensive plastic pollution management report.

46 The task force would be comprised of five members: the
47 Commissioner of Environmental Protection, serving ex officio, the
48 Commissioner of Health, serving ex officio, and three members of

1 the public appointed by the Governor representing the business,
2 academic, and nonprofit communities respectively. The task force
3 would be responsible for creating a comprehensive plastic pollution
4 management report which would include: recommendations about
5 how the State and local government units may reduce the amount of
6 plastic entering the waste stream, reduce and remove existing
7 plastic pollution, address microplastic pollution in the State's
8 waterways, restore ecosystems that have been damaged by plastic
9 pollution to their natural condition, and estimate the resources
10 necessary for implementation of suggested policies. The report
11 would also include specific executive and legislative
12 recommendations, and model ordinances for local government
13 units, where applicable.

14 The task force would dissolve on the 60th day after the
15 submission of the comprehensive plastic pollution management
16 report.