

ASSEMBLY, No. 3299

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Violence.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the “Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual
2 Violence.

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 the "Task Force on the Prevention of
8 Sexual Violence." The purpose of the task force is to study and
9 evaluate current and best practice standards concerning sexual
10 violence prevention strategies and initiatives, identify problems
11 with, and areas for improvement of, the provision of sexual
12 violence prevention services, and develop recommendations for
13 reducing acts of sexual violence and improving the quality and
14 scope of sexual violence prevention services provided or supported
15 by State government in an effort to keep communities safe.

16 b. The task force shall consist of 19 members as follows: the
17 Commissioners of Children and Families, Education, and Health,
18 the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Higher Education, or
19 their designees, who shall serve as ex officio members; two
20 representatives of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault,
21 one of whom shall specialize in the provision of sexual violence
22 prevention services, and one of whom shall have experience in
23 developing policy relating to the prevention of sexual violence;
24 three representatives from county-based rape crisis centers with
25 expertise in sexual violence prevention, of whom one each shall be
26 from the northern, central, and southern regions of the State; a
27 representative from each of the following: the New Jersey
28 Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Prevent Child
29 Abuse New Jersey, New Jersey Child Assault Prevention, and
30 Garden State Equality; and five public members with demonstrated
31 expertise or interest in issues related to the work of the task force,
32 one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, and four, of
33 whom one each shall be appointed by the Senate President, the
34 Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker of the General Assembly, and
35 the Assembly Minority Leader.

36 c. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 60 days
37 after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of
38 the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
39 appointments were made.

40 d. The task force shall organize as soon as may be practicable,
41 but no later than 90 days after the appointment of its members, and
42 shall select a chairperson from among the public members. The
43 chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of
44 the task force. The task force members shall serve without
45 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
46 incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits of funds
47 appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for its
48 purposes.

1 e. The Division on Women in the Department of Children and
2 Families shall supply such stenographic, clerical, and other
3 administrative assistants and professional staff as the task force
4 requires to carry out its duties.

5 f. The task force is entitled to the assistance and services of the
6 employees of any State department, board, bureau, commission, or
7 agency as it may require and as may be available for its purposes.

8
9 2. The task force shall:

10 a. gather information from experts and review and evaluate
11 existing research and literature, including any nationally recognized
12 best practices, on the prevention of sexual violence;

13 b. review current Statewide strategies for preventing acts of
14 sexual violence; and

15 c. develop a Statewide plan to reduce acts of sexual violence
16 and mechanisms to increase public awareness about sexual violence
17 and facilitate sexual violence prevention strategies.

18
19 3. The task force shall present a report of its findings and
20 recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
21 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than one
22 year after the organization of the task force.

23
24 4. This act shall take effect immediately, and the task force
25 shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its report.

26 27 28 STATEMENT

29
30 This bill establishes the 19-member “Task Force on the
31 Prevention of Sexual Violence.” The purpose of the task force
32 would be to: study and evaluate current and best practice standards
33 concerning sexual violence prevention strategies and initiatives;
34 identify problems with, and areas for improvement of, the provision
35 of sexual violence prevention services; and develop
36 recommendations for reducing acts of sexual violence and
37 improving the quality and scope of sexual violence prevention
38 services provided or supported by State government in an effort to
39 keep communities safe.

40 The task force would consist of the following members: the
41 Commissioners of Children and Families, Education, and Health,
42 the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Higher Education, or
43 their designees, who would serve as ex-officio members; two
44 representatives of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault,
45 one of whom would be a staff member and one of whom would be a
46 member of the Board of Trustees; three representatives from
47 county-based rape crisis centers with expertise in sexual violence
48 prevention, of whom one each would be from the northern, central,

1 and southern regions of the State; a representative from each of the
2 following organizations: the New Jersey Association for the
3 Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey,
4 New Jersey Child Assault Prevention, and Garden State Equality;
5 and five public members with demonstrated expertise or interest in
6 issues related to the work of the task force. One of the public
7 members would be appointed by the Governor, and four, of whom
8 one each would be appointed by the Senate President, the Senate
9 Minority Leader, the Speaker of the General Assembly, and the
10 Assembly Minority Leader.

11 Under the provisions of the bill, the duties of the task force
12 would be to: gather information from experts and review and
13 evaluate existing research and literature, including any nationally
14 recognized best practices, on the prevention of sexual violence;
15 review current Statewide strategies for preventing acts of sexual
16 violence; and develop a Statewide plan to reduce acts of sexual
17 violence and mechanisms to increase public awareness about sexual
18 violence and facilitate sexual violence prevention strategies.

19 The task force would organize no later than 90 days after the
20 appointment of its members, present a report of its findings and
21 recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
22 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than one
23 year after the organization of the task force, and would expire 30
24 days after the issuance of its report.