

ASSEMBLY, No. 3556

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to examine leasing of nonpublic school facilities to school districts for purpose of implementing programs for which districts lack facility space.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a task force to examine the leasing of
2 nonpublic schools for school district programs.

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

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7 1. a. There is created a task force to study the issue of leasing
8 nonpublic school facility space to school districts for the purpose of
9 implementing programs for which the school districts lack their
10 own facility space. The task force shall consist of the following
11 five members:

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

13 (2) four members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:
14 one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey School
15 Boards Association; one member upon the recommendation of the
16 New Jersey Association of School Administrators; one member
17 upon the recommendation of New Jersey Realtors; and one member
18 upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Catholic Conference.

19 b. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
20 of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of the
21 task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
22 appointments were made.

23 c. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
24 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures 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.

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

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

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42 3. It shall be the duty of the task force to study and make
43 recommendations regarding the leasing of nonpublic school facility
44 space to school districts for the purpose of implementing programs
45 for which the school districts lack facility space. The task force
46 shall study and consider issues including, but not limited to:

47 a. the desire of school districts to implement certain additional
48 programs for which the districts do not have sufficient facility

1 space, which may include, but are not limited to, preschool and
2 kindergarten programs;

3 b. whether multiple school districts could benefit from jointly
4 conducting a program in the same nonpublic school facility space;

5 c. the availability of facility space in nonpublic schools and the
6 potential willingness of nonpublic schools to lease unused facility
7 space to school districts;

8 d. the types of school district programs for which the leasing of
9 nonpublic school facility space may be particularly useful or
10 needed; and

11 e. ways in which the Department of Education could
12 coordinate efforts between school districts and nonpublic schools to
13 facilitate mutually beneficial leasing arrangements.

14 The task force shall make recommendations based on its
15 findings, including recommendations on the advisability and
16 feasibility of establishing leasing arrangements between nonpublic
17 schools and school districts which allow districts to implement
18 programs for which they lack their own facility space.

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

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

27 28 29 STATEMENT

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31 This bill establishes a five-member task force to study the issue
32 of leasing nonpublic school facility space to school districts for the
33 purpose of implementing programs for which the school districts
34 lack their own facility space. The task force will consist of the
35 Commissioner of Education or a designee, and four members
36 appointed by the Governor as follows: one member upon the
37 recommendation of the New Jersey School Boards Association; one
38 member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association
39 of School Administrators; one member upon the recommendation of
40 New Jersey Realtors; and one member upon the recommendation of
41 the New Jersey Catholic Conference.

42 Under the bill, the task force is directed to study and consider the
43 leasing of nonpublic school facility space to school districts
44 including, but not limited to, the following issues:

- 45 • the desire of school districts to implement certain additional
46 programs for which the districts do not have sufficient
47 facility space, which may include, but are not limited to,
48 preschool and kindergarten programs;

- 1 • whether multiple school districts could benefit from jointly
2 conducting a program in the same nonpublic school facility
3 space;
- 4 • the availability of facility space in nonpublic schools and the
5 potential willingness of nonpublic schools to lease unused
6 facility space to school districts;
- 7 • the types of school district programs for which the leasing of
8 nonpublic school facility space may be particularly useful or
9 needed; and
- 10 • ways in which the Department of Education could
11 coordinate efforts between school districts and nonpublic
12 schools to facilitate mutually beneficial leasing
13 arrangements.

14 The task force will also make recommendations based on its
15 findings, including recommendations on the advisability and
16 feasibility of establishing leasing arrangements between nonpublic
17 schools and school districts which allow districts to implement
18 programs for which they lack their own facility space. The task
19 force is required to issue a final report of its findings and
20 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature within six
21 months of its organization.