

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4210**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2020

**Sponsored by:**  
**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**  
**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes the “School District Shared Services Task Force.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **AN ACT** establishing the “School District Shared Services Task  
2       Force” to study the utilization of shared services among school  
3       districts and to recommend measures for improving shared  
4       services for school districts.

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6       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
7       *of New Jersey:*

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9       1. The Legislature finds and declares:

10      a. With the inevitability of duplication of services among  
11      school districts, shared services promote cost efficiency and  
12      programming equity; and

13      b. Shared services allows school districts to offer choice to  
14      students and parents, which in many districts, would not otherwise  
15      be available due to fiscal restraints; and

16      c. Despite the State allocating funds to assist municipalities  
17      looking to promote and support local shared services and school  
18      consolidation studies, there exists limited information regarding  
19      how the hundreds of school districts across the State are working  
20      with other school districts, municipalities, and counties to provide  
21      services to students and parents; and

22      d. It is therefore necessary, appropriate, and in the public  
23      interest for the State of New Jersey to establish a task force that  
24      studies how school districts are utilizing shared services and  
25      recommends to the Legislature measures for improving the  
26      efficiency and delivery of shared services for school districts.

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28      2. a. There is established the “School District Shared Services  
29      Task Force.” The purpose of the task force is to study how school  
30      districts are utilizing shared services and to develop  
31      recommendations that improve the efficiency and delivery of shared  
32      services for school districts.

33      b. The task force shall consist of 9 members as follows:

34          (1) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, who shall  
35          serve ex officio;

36          (2) the Commissioner of Community Affairs, or a designee, who  
37          shall serve ex officio;

38          (3) one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one  
39          member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, one  
40          member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one  
41          member appointed by the Minority Leader of the General  
42          Assembly, all of whom shall be members of the public with  
43          demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the task  
44          force; and

45          (4) three public members, who shall be appointed by the  
46          Governor no later than the 30th day after the effective date of this  
47          act, as follows: one member upon the recommendation of the New  
48          Jersey League of Municipalities, one member upon the

1 recommendation of the New Jersey Association of Counties, and  
2 one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey School  
3 Boards Association.

4 c. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled  
5 in the same manner as the original appointments were made.  
6 Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but  
7 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the  
8 performance of their duties as members of the task force.

9 d. The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's  
10 designee, shall serve as chairperson of the task force. The task  
11 force shall organize as soon as practicable following the  
12 appointment of its members and shall select a vice-chairperson from  
13 among its members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who  
14 need not be a member of the task force.

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

22  
23 3. It shall be the duty of the task force to study how school  
24 districts are utilizing shared services and to develop  
25 recommendations that improve the efficiency and delivery of shared  
26 services for school districts. The task force shall study and consider  
27 issues including, but not limited to, the following:

28 a. the current shared services arrangements school districts  
29 have with other school districts, municipalities, and counties;

30 b. the implementation challenges that school districts currently  
31 face in attempting to expand the scope and capacity of their shared  
32 services;

33 c. the funding necessary for school districts to use shared  
34 services more often and more efficiently;

35 d. the impact, if any, with improving shared services among  
36 school districts and potential consolidation of school districts;

37 e. recommendations for school districts to adopt and  
38 implement to improve the efficiency and delivery of their shared  
39 services.

40  
41 4. a. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor,  
42 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
43 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one year after the task force organizes.  
44 The report shall contain the task force's findings and  
45 recommendations for school districts on improving the efficiency  
46 and delivery of their shared services.

47 b. The task force shall expire upon the submission of its final  
48 report.

1       5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6       This bill establishes the “School District Shared Services Task  
7 Force” to study how school districts are utilizing shared services  
8 and to develop recommendations that improve upon the efficiency  
9 and delivery of shared services for school districts. The task force  
10 will include the following 9 members: the Commissioner of  
11 Education; the Commissioner of Community Affairs; one public  
12 member appointed by the President of the Senate; one public  
13 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one public  
14 member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; one  
15 public member appointed by the Minority Leader of the General  
16 Assembly; and three members appointed by the Governor including  
17 one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey League of  
18 Municipalities, one member upon the recommendation of the New  
19 Jersey Association of Counties, and one member upon the  
20 recommendation of the New Jersey School Boards Association.

21       The task force will study and consider issues including, but not  
22 limited to:

- 23       – the current shared services arrangements school districts  
24       have with other school districts, municipalities, and  
25       counties;
- 26       – the implementation challenges that school districts currently  
27       face in attempting to expand the scope and capacity of their  
28       shared services;
- 29       – the funding necessary for school districts to use shared  
30       services more often and more efficiently;
- 31       – the impact, if any, with improving shared services among  
32       school districts and potential consolidation of school  
33       districts;
- 34       – recommendations for school districts to adopt and  
35       implement to improve the efficiency and delivery of their  
36       shared services.

37       The task force is required to issue a final report to the Governor  
38 and the Legislature within one year of its organization, which  
39 contains the task force’s findings and recommendations regarding  
40 school districts improving the efficiency and delivery of their  
41 shared services. The task force would expire upon the submission  
42 of this report.