

ASSEMBLY, No. 4436

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

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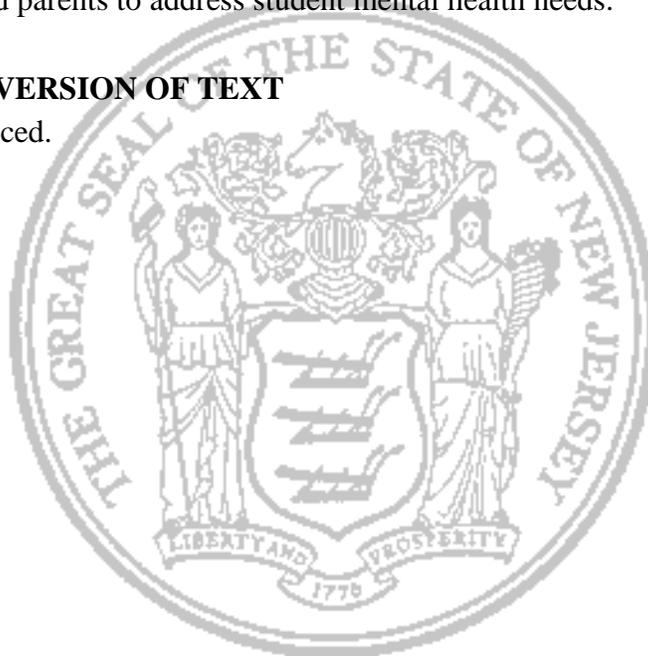
Assemblyman Verrelli, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttel, Assemblyman Benson and Assemblywoman Dunn

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Student Mental Health Task Force” to study resources available to schools and parents to address student mental health needs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/24/2020)

1 AN ACT establishing the “Student Mental Health Task Force.”

2

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

5

6 1. a. There is established the “Student Mental Health Task
7 Force.” The purpose of the task force shall be to study and survey
8 the resources that are available to schools and parents to address
9 student mental health needs.

10 b. The task force shall consist of 15 members, as follows:

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

13 (2) the Commissioner of Health, or a designee, who shall serve
14 ex officio;

15 (3) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or a designee,
16 who shall serve ex officio;

17 (4) the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, or a designee,
18 who shall serve ex officio;

19 (5) the Director of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction
20 Services in the Department of Human Services, or a designee, who
21 shall serve ex officio;

22 (6) one public member with knowledge in issues relating to the
23 work of the task force, appointed by the Speaker of the General
24 Assembly;

25 (7) one public member with knowledge in issues relating to the
26 work of the task force, appointed by the Senate President; and

27 (8) eight public members appointed by the Governor, who shall
28 include: one representative of the New Jersey Principals and
29 Supervisors Association, one representative of the New Jersey
30 School Boards Association, one representative of the National
31 Alliance on Mental Illness, one representative of the New Jersey
32 Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, one
33 representative of the New Jersey Association of Counties, one
34 representative of the New Jersey League of Municipalities, one
35 representative of a mental health service provider that has entered
36 into a partnership with one or more school districts in the State, and
37 one representative of any State institution of higher education that
38 has entered into a mental health-related partnership with one or
39 more school districts in the State.

40 c. Members to the task force shall be appointed within 60 days
41 following the date of enactment of this act. The Commissioner of
42 Education, or his designee, shall serve as the chairperson of the task
43 force. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable
44 following the appointment of its members and shall select a vice-
45 chairperson from among its members. The chairperson shall
46 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

47 d. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled
48 in the same manner as the original appointments were made.

1 Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but
2 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the
3 performance of their duties as members of the task force, subject to
4 available funds.

5 e. The Department of Education shall provide such
6 administrative and professional assistance as is necessary for the
7 task force to carry out its work. The task force shall be entitled to
8 call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees
9 of any State agency as it may require and as may be available for its
10 purposes.

11

12 2. a. It shall be the duty of the task force to study and survey
13 all resources that are currently available to the schools and parents
14 within each county in the State, and within the northern, central,
15 and southern regions of the State, for helping a student or child who
16 experiences mental health issues. The task force shall, at a
17 minimum, survey the availability of:

18 (1) mental health treatment services provided within each
19 county and region of the State including, but not limited to, those
20 services provided through a school district, professional mental
21 health services provider, or community mental health services
22 organization, and any other tools or resources to address the mental
23 health needs of students;

24 (2) mental health care provider networks that offer mental
25 health treatment services within each municipality, county, and
26 region of the State;

27 (3) State, county, or municipal agencies within each county and
28 region of the State that offer funding, professional mental health
29 treatment services, or other resources to address the mental health
30 needs of students; and

31 (4) partnership opportunities with institutions of higher
32 education within each county and region of the State to address the
33 mental health needs of students.

34 b. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor, and
35 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
36 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one year after the organization of the
37 task force. The report shall contain the results of the survey
38 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

39 The task force shall forward a copy of the report to every school
40 district in the State.

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42 3. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire 30
43 days after the task force issues its final report.

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STATEMENT

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48 This bill establishes the “Student Mental Health Task Force” to

1 study and survey the resources that are available to schools and
2 parents when helping a student or child that experiences mental
3 health issues.

4 Under the bill, the task force would consist of 15 members,
5 including the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of
6 Health, the Commissioner of Children and Families, the
7 Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, the Director of the
8 Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in the
9 Department of Human Services, one public member appointed by
10 the Speaker of the General Assembly, one public member appointed
11 by the Senate President, and eight public members appointed by the
12 Governor.

13 The eight members appointed by the Governor would include
14 one representative from each of the following organizations: (1) the
15 New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; (2) the New
16 Jersey School Boards Association; (3) the National Alliance on
17 Mental Illness; (4) the New Jersey Association of Mental Health
18 and Addiction Agencies; (5) the New Jersey Association of
19 Counties; (6) the New Jersey League of Municipalities; (7) any
20 mental health service provider that has entered into a partnership
21 with one or more school districts in the State; and (8) any institution
22 of higher education that has entered into a partnership with one or
23 more school districts in the State to provide mental health services.

24 Specifically, the bill requires the task force to study and survey
25 all resources that are currently available to schools and parents
26 within each county in the State, and within the northern, central,
27 and southern regions of the State, for helping a student or child who
28 experiences mental health issues. At a minimum, the task force
29 would indicate the availability of:

30 (1) mental health treatment services provided within each
31 county and region of the State including, but not limited to, those
32 services provided through a school district, professional mental
33 health services provider, or community mental health services
34 organization, and any other tools or resources to address the mental
35 health needs of students;

36 (2) mental health care provider networks that offer mental
37 health treatment services within each county and region of the
38 State;

39 (3) State, county, or municipal agencies within each county and
40 region of the State that offer funding, professional mental health
41 treatment services, or other resources to address the mental health
42 needs of students; and

43 (4) partnership opportunities with institutions of higher
44 education within each county and region of the State to address the
45 mental health needs of students.

46 The bill requires the task force to issue a final report to the
47 Governor and Legislature within one year of the organization of the
48 task force. This report would be required to contain the information

- 1 set forth above. The task force would also be required to forward
- 2 the report to every school district in the State. The task force would
- 3 expire 30 days after the issuance of this report.