

ASSEMBLY, No. 4469

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Verrelli

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Police Body Camera Implementation Task Force” to study and make recommendations concerning use of body cameras by law enforcement agencies in this State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/30/2020)

1 AN ACT establishing the “Police Body Camera Implementation
2 Task Force.”

3

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 established a task force to be known as the
8 “Police Body Camera Implementation Task Force” whose charge
9 shall be to study and make recommendations on the use of body
10 cameras by certain law enforcement officers in this State, including
11 but not limited to requirements for implementation and
12 development of best practices for the use of these cameras and rules
13 for access to and use of body camera recordings. For the purposes
14 of this act, “body camera” shall mean a device worn by a law
15 enforcement officer that electronically records audio and video
16 while the officer acts in the performance of the officer’s official
17 duties.

18 b. The task force shall consist of 17 members as follows:

19 (1) the Chair of the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee;

20 (2) the Chair of the Assembly Law and Public Safety
21 Committee;

22 (3) the Attorney General or a designee, who shall serve ex
23 officio;

24 (4) the New Jersey Public Defender or a designee, who shall
25 serve ex officio;

26 (5) a representative of the New Jersey State Policemen's
27 Benevolent Association, Inc.;

28 (6) a representative of the New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police;

29 (7) a representative of the New Jersey State Association of
30 Chiefs of Police;

31 (8) a representative of the County Prosecutors’ Association of
32 New Jersey;

33 (9) the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties
34 Union of New Jersey;

35 (10) a representative of the Police Institute at the Rutgers
36 School of Criminal Justice;

37 (11) a representative of the National Association for the
38 Advancement of Colored People;

39 (12) a public member appointed by the Governor who is a law
40 enforcement officer in a municipality that currently utilizes body
41 cameras;

42 (13) a public member appointed by the Governor who is a
43 victims’ rights advocate;

44 (14) a member to be appointed by the minority leader of the
45 Senate;

46 (15) a member to be appointed by the minority leader of the
47 General Assembly;

- 1 (16) a mayor representing an urban municipality as designated
- 2 by the President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities;
- 3 and
- 4 (17) a mayor representing a suburban municipality as
- 5 designated by the President of the New Jersey State League of
- 6 Municipalities.
- 7 c. All appointments to the task force shall be made within 30
- 8 days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies shall be filled in
- 9 the same manner as the original appointments. The Attorney
- 10 General shall serve as the chair of the task force. The chair shall
- 11 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force. The
- 12 members of the task force shall serve without compensation but
- 13 may be reimbursed, within the limits of funds made available to the
- 14 task force, for necessary travel expenses incurred in the
- 15 performance of their duties.
- 16 d. The chair shall call an initial meeting of the task force within
- 17 seven days of the appointment of a majority of its members and
- 18 hold hearings at the times and in the places it may deem appropriate
- 19 and necessary to fulfill its charge. The task force shall be entitled to
- 20 call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees
- 21 of any State, county or municipal department, board, bureau,
- 22 commission or agency as it may require and as may be available to
- 23 it for its purposes.
- 24 e. The task force may seek the advice of experts, such as
- 25 persons specializing in the fields of criminology, psychology,
- 26 education, criminal or family law, or other related fields as deemed
- 27 appropriate by the membership of the task force.
- 28 f. A report of the task force's findings and recommendations
- 29 shall be submitted to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
- 30 P.L.1991, c.164 (C:52:14-19.1), to the President of the Senate and
- 31 Speaker of the General Assembly no later than December 30, 2021.
- 32
- 33 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
- 34 submission of the task force's final report to the Governor and
- 35 Legislature.
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STATEMENT

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40 This bill establishes a "Police Body Camera Implementation

41 Task Force" to study and make recommendations on the use of

42 body cameras by certain law enforcement officers in this State

43 including, but not limited to, requirements for implementation and

44 development of best practices for the use of these cameras and rules

45 for access to and use of body camera recordings.

46 The bill defines a "body camera" as a device worn by a law

47 enforcement officer that electronically records audio and video

1 while the officer acts in the performance of the officer's official
2 duties.

3 The 17-member task force under the bill would be comprised of
4 the following members: (1) the Chair of the Senate Law and Public
5 Safety Committee; (2) the Chair of the Assembly Law and Public
6 Safety Committee; (3) the Attorney General or a designee, who
7 shall serve ex officio; (4) the New Jersey Public Defender or a
8 designee, who shall serve ex officio; (5) a representative of the New
9 Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, Inc.; (6) a
10 representative of the New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police; (7) a
11 representative of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of
12 Police; (8) a representative of the of the County Prosecutors'
13 Association of New Jersey; (9) the Executive Director of the
14 American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey; (10) a
15 representative of the Police Institute at the Rutgers School of
16 Criminal Justice; (11) a representative of the National Association
17 for the Advancement of Colored People; (12) a public member
18 appointed by the Governor who is a law enforcement officer in a
19 municipality that currently utilizes police body cameras; (13) a
20 public member appointed by the Governor who is a victims' rights
21 advocate; (14) a member to be appointed by the minority leader of
22 the Senate; (15) a member to be appointed by the minority leader of
23 the General Assembly; (16) a mayor representing an urban
24 municipality as designated by the President of the New Jersey
25 League of Municipalities; and (17) a mayor representing a suburban
26 municipality as designated by the President of the New Jersey
27 League of Municipalities.

28 The bill requires the task force appointments to be made within
29 30 days of the bill's effective date. The Attorney General is to
30 serve as the chair of the task force and is required to appoint a
31 secretary. The chair is to call an initial meeting of the task force
32 within seven days of the appointment of a majority of its members
33 and hold hearings at the times and in the places it may deem
34 appropriate and necessary to fulfill its charge. The task force may
35 seek the advice of experts, such as persons specializing in the fields
36 of criminology, psychology, education, criminal or family law, or
37 other related fields.

38 Under the bill, the task force is required to report its findings and
39 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than
40 December 30, 2021.