

ASSEMBLY, No. 4481

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman DIANNE C. GOVE

District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle, Speight, Dunn,
DiMaso, Reynolds-Jackson and Assemblyman Johnson**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and Safety.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term
2 Care Quality and Safety.

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 the New Jersey Task Force on Long-
8 Term Care Quality and Safety, which shall be tasked with
9 developing recommendations to make changes to the long-term
10 system of care to drive improvements in person-centered care,
11 resident and staff safety, improvements in quality of care and
12 services, workforce engagement and sustainability, and any other
13 appropriate aspects of the long-term system of care in New Jersey
14 as the task force elects to review. The task force shall specifically
15 focus on:

16 (1) developing factors to optimize the balance of services and
17 supports;

18 (2) expanding home and community-based services;

19 (3) nursing home reforms, including implementing new care
20 models, optimizing nursing home size and configurations to foster
21 resident wellness and infection control, increasing clinical presence
22 in nursing homes, and identifying appropriate nursing home staffing
23 levels and ratios based on resident acuity and special population
24 needs; and

25 (4) broader reforms to the long-term system of care, including
26 developing technology requirements to enable enhanced use of
27 telemedicine and telehealth, instituting workforce engagement and
28 advancement models including career laddering options and
29 structures, increasing the use of Medicaid managed care to drive
30 improvements in quality and oversight of nursing homes, and
31 establishing acuity adjustments for Medicaid managed care
32 payments to nursing homes.

33 b. The task force shall comprise 21 members as follows:

34 (1) the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Human
35 Services, and the New Jersey Long-Term Care Ombudsman, or
36 their designees, who shall serve ex officio;

37 (2) Six public members to be appointed by the Governor, which
38 public members shall include at least one member representing each
39 of the following: a non-profit nursing home; a for-profit long-term
40 care facility; a nurse with significant experience in long-term care;
41 a consumer rights advocate with experience or background related
42 to long-term care; an expert on aging policy; and a Medicaid
43 managed care organization;

44 (3) Six public members to be appointed by the Senate President,
45 which public members shall include at least one member
46 representing each of the following: a for-profit nursing home; a
47 medical director for a non-profit nursing home; a certified nurse
48 assistant; an advocate for worker safety in long-term care facilities;

1 an expert on disability policy; and a resident of a nursing home or a
2 long-term care facility; and

3 (4) Six public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
4 General Assembly, which public members shall include at least one
5 member representing each of the following: a non-profit long-term
6 care facility; a medical director for a for-profit nursing home; a
7 resident rights advocate; an expert on long-term care policy; an
8 expert on infection control and prevention; and a family member of
9 a resident of a nursing home or a long-term care facility.

10 c. The members of the task force shall be appointed, and the
11 task force shall organize, no later than 45 days after the effective
12 date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
13 bill). The members shall select a chairperson and a vice-
14 chairperson from among the public members. The chairperson may
15 appoint a secretary to the task force, who need not be a member of
16 the task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the
17 chairperson.

18 d. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
19 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the
20 performance of their duties as members of the task force, within the
21 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
22 force for its purposes.

23 e. The Department of Health shall provide administrative and
24 staff support to the task force. The task force shall be entitled to
25 call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees
26 of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau,
27 commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available
28 for its purposes.

29 f. No later than one year after its organization, the task force
30 shall prepare and submit a report to the Governor and, pursuant to
31 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature,
32 concerning its recommendations developed pursuant to this section.
33 The task force shall dissolve 30 days following the date on which it
34 submits its report under this subsection.

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36 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire 30
37 days after the date the task force submits its report pursuant to
38 subsection f. of section 1 of this act.

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STATEMENT

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43 This bill establishes the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term
44 Care Quality and Safety, which will be tasked with developing
45 recommendations to make changes to the long-term system of care
46 to drive improvements in person-centered care, resident and staff
47 safety, improvements in quality of care and services, workforce
48 engagement and sustainability, and any other appropriate aspects of

1 the long-term system of care in New Jersey as the task force elects
2 to review.

3 Specifically, the task force is to focus on: developing factors to
4 optimize the balance of services and supports; expanding home and
5 community-based services; nursing home reforms, including new
6 care models, optimizing nursing home size and configurations to
7 foster resident wellness and infection control, increasing clinical
8 presence in nursing homes, and identifying appropriate nursing
9 home staffing levels and ratios based on resident acuity and special
10 population needs; and broader reforms to the long-term system of
11 care, including developing technology requirements to enable
12 enhanced use of telemedicine and telehealth, establishing workforce
13 engagement and advancement models, including career laddering
14 options and structures, increasing the use of Medicaid managed care
15 to drive improvements in quality and oversight of nursing homes,
16 and establishing acuity adjustments for Medicaid managed care
17 payments to nursing homes.

18 The task force will comprise 21 members, including the
19 Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Human Services,
20 and the New Jersey Long-Term Care Ombudsman, or their
21 designees, who will serve ex officio, and 18 public members
22 representing various facets of the nursing home industry, with six
23 each to be appointed by the Governor, the Senate President, and the
24 Speaker of the General Assembly. The members of the task force
25 are to be appointed, and the task force is to organize, no later than
26 45 days after the effective date of the bill. The members will select
27 a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among the public
28 members. The chairperson may appoint a secretary to the task
29 force, who need not be a member of the task force. The task force
30 will meet at the call of the chairperson.

31 Members of the task force will serve without compensation, but
32 may be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the
33 performance of their duties as members of the task force, within the
34 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
35 force for its purposes.

36 The Department of Health will provide administrative and staff
37 support to the task force. The task force will be entitled to call to
38 its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any
39 State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission,
40 or agency as it may require and as may be available for its purposes.

41 No later than one year after its organization, the task force will
42 be required to prepare and submit a report to the Governor and to
43 the Legislature concerning its recommendations. The task force
44 will dissolve, and the bill will expire, 30 days following the date on
45 which the task force submits its report.