

ASSEMBLY, No. 4818

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY
District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Caputo

SYNOPSIS

Establishes State Seal Task Force to review the State seal.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/26/2020)

1 AN ACT establishing a State Seal Task Force to review the State
2 seal.

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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. The Legislature finds and declares that the New Jersey State
8 seal was adopted in May of 1777. The State has significantly
9 changed since that time, and some believe that the State seal no
10 longer provides an accurate representation of the State. It is
11 appropriate for a task force to study and review the design of the
12 State seal for New Jersey's present and future.

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14 2. There is established a task force, to be known as the State
15 Seal Task Force. The task force shall consist of 11 members as
16 follows: the Secretary of State and the Commissioner of the
17 Department of Community Affairs, or a designee, shall serve ex-
18 officio; a representative from the New Jersey Historical
19 Commission; a representative from the New Jersey Division of
20 Travel and Tourism; the President of the Senate shall appoint one
21 member from the Senate; the Speaker of the General Assembly
22 shall appoint one member from the General Assembly; and the
23 Governor shall appoint five public members.

24 The public members appointed by the Governor shall have been
25 residents of New Jersey for at least 15 years.

26 At least two of the public members appointed by the Governor
27 shall be high school students and, if less than 18 years of age, shall
28 be required to provide written permission from a parent or guardian
29 to participate in the task force. A parent or guardian shall
30 accompany the underage student at all times to meetings and other
31 activities relating to the task force.

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33 3. The members of the task force shall be appointed and hold
34 their initial organization meeting within 45 days after the effective
35 date of this act. The members shall elect one of the members to
36 serve as chair and one of the members to serve as vice-chair. The
37 chair may appoint a secretary, who need not be a member of the
38 task force. The members shall serve without compensation, but
39 shall be eligible for reimbursement for necessary and reasonable
40 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties within
41 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the
42 task force.

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44 4. The task force shall meet at the call of the chair. A meeting
45 of the task force may be called at the request of six of the task
46 force's members, and six members of the task force shall constitute
47 a quorum at any meeting thereof. The task force shall hold at least

1 three public hearings and elicit testimony from the public at such
2 times and places as the task force designates.

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4 5. It shall be the duty of the task force to study the State seal
5 for the purpose of updating the seal to make it more current and
6 reflective of what New Jersey represents.

7 At a minimum, the task force shall:

8 a. review the history of the State seal;

9 b. review the history of the design of the State seal;

10 c. analyze the population makeup and industrial sectors of the
11 State at the time the seal was created and compare that with the
12 current population makeup and industrial sectors of the State;

13 d. assess the inclusiveness and representation of the State seal;

14 e. consider possible changes to the State seal to make it more
15 reflective of the State;

16 f. consider the advantages and disadvantages of changing the
17 State seal; and

18 g. make recommendations as to whether or not the State seal
19 should be redesigned.

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21 6. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
22 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
23 municipal department, board, bureau, commission or agency, as it
24 may require and as may be available for its purposes, and to employ
25 stenographic and clerical assistance and incur traveling and other
26 miscellaneous expenses as may be necessary in order to perform its
27 duties, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made
28 available to the task force.

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30 7. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations
31 to the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
32 (C.52:14-19.1), and the Governor within 18 months of its initial
33 organizational meeting.

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35 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire after
36 the task force submits its findings and recommendations to the
37 Governor and the Legislature.

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40 STATEMENT

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42 The New Jersey State seal was adopted in May of 1777. The
43 State has significantly changed since that time, and some believe
44 that the seal no longer provides an accurate representation of the
45 State.

46 This bill establishes a task force to be known as the State Seal
47 Task Force. The task force will consider changing the State seal to
48 update it to be more reflective of New Jersey today.

- 1 At a minimum, the task force will:
- 2 review the history of the State seal;
- 3 review the history of the design of the State seal;
- 4 analyze the population makeup and industrial sectors of the State
- 5 at the time the seal was created and compare that with the current
- 6 population makeup and industrial sectors of the State;
- 7 assess the inclusiveness and representation of the State seal;
- 8 consider possible changes to the State seal to make it more
- 9 reflective of the State;
- 10 consider the advantages and disadvantages of changing the State
- 11 seal; and
- 12 make recommendations as to whether or not the State seal should
- 13 be redesigned.
- 14 The task force will consist of 11 members, five of whom will be
- 15 appointed by the Governor, including at least two high school
- 16 students. The students appointed by the Governor who are under
- 17 the age of 18 will be required to provide written permission from a
- 18 parent or guardian to participate in the task force.
- 19 The task force will report its findings and recommendations to
- 20 the Legislature and the Governor within 18 months of its initial
- 21 organizational meeting. The task force will expire after the
- 22 submission of its report.