

ASSEMBLY, No. 5181

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

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Sponsored by:

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District 33 (Hudson)

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SYNOPSIS

Creates task force to study feasibility of paperless State government.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/4/2021)

1 AN ACT creating a task force to study the feasibility of a paperless
2 State government.

3

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

6

7 1. a. There is established a task force to study the feasibility of
8 a paperless Executive Branch of State government.

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

10 (1) the Secretary of State, who shall serve ex officio;

11 (2) the Director of the New Jersey Cybersecurity and
12 Communications Integration Cell in the New Jersey Office of
13 Homeland Security and Preparedness, who shall serve ex officio;

14 (3) the Chief Technology Officer of the New Jersey Office of
15 Information Technology, who shall serve ex officio;

16 (4) the Director of the New Jersey Division of Taxation, who
17 shall serve ex officio;

18 (5) the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey, who shall serve ex
19 officio;

20 (6) four public members who shall be appointed by the
21 Governor, at least two of whom shall be from different political
22 parties, including one representative with an expertise in voting and
23 election law, one representative with an expertise in government
24 information technology, one representative with an expertise in
25 electronic transaction and management, and one representative with
26 an expertise in cybersecurity;

27 (7) two public members appointed by the Governor upon the
28 recommendation of the Secretary of State, each of whom shall be of
29 different political parties, at least one of whom shall have expertise
30 in voting and elections;

31 (8) one public member appointed by the Governor upon the
32 recommendation of the President of the Senate, with an expertise in
33 government information technology;

34 (9) one public member appointed by the Governor upon the
35 recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly, with an
36 expertise in electronic transaction and management;

37 (10) one public member appointed by the Governor upon the
38 recommendation of the Senate Minority Leader, with an expertise in
39 revenue collection; and

40 (11) one public member appointed by the Governor upon the
41 recommendation of the Assembly Minority Leader, with an
42 expertise in cybersecurity.

43 c. All appointments to the task force shall be made not later
44 than the 45th day after the effective date of this act, P.L. ,
45 c. , (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The task force
46 shall convene its first meeting within 30 days following the date on
47 which the majority of its members have been appointed. The
48 members shall elect one of the members to serve as chair and one of

1 the members to serve as vice-chair. The chair and vice-chair shall
2 not be of the same political party. The chair may appoint a
3 secretary, who need not be a member of the task force.

4 d. The task force shall meet at the call of the chair. A meeting
5 of the task force may be called upon the request of eight members
6 of the task force and eight members of the task force shall constitute
7 a quorum at any meeting.

8 e. The members of the task force, other than those serving ex
9 officio, shall serve for the duration of the existence of the task
10 force. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the
11 original appointment. The task force members shall serve without
12 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
13 incurred in the performance of their duties to the extent that funds
14 are available for that purpose.

15 f. The task force shall be entitled to the assistance and services
16 of the employees of any State board, bureau, commission, or agency
17 as it may require, and as may be available to it for these purposes
18 including, but not limited to, stenographic and clerical assistants
19 within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available
20 to it for its purposes.

21 g. The Department of State shall assist the task force in the
22 performance of its duties and provide the task force with studies,
23 data, or other materials relevant to the purposes of the task force.
24

25 2. a. The purpose of the task force shall be to study the feasibility
26 of a paperless system in the Executive Branch. At a minimum, the
27 task force shall study the following:

28 (1) opportunities and risks associated with using electronic
29 registrations and electronic transactions;

30 (2) different types of technology available for the State to develop
31 a paperless system;

32 (3) cybersecurity protections and technology upgrades to State
33 computer systems, networks, software, and hardware across all
34 State-level departments, commissions, councils, boards, authorities,
35 offices, and other agencies;

36 (4) any cost-benefit analysis concerning all needed technology
37 upgrades;

38 (5) the cost-benefit analysis and feasibility of implementing
39 paperless technology in the State and the best approach to finance
40 the cost of implementation;

41 (6) how the Legislature can modify current State laws to support a
42 secure paperless system;

43 (7) a summary of the benefits of a paperless system; and

44 (8) such other topics relative to a paperless system in the
45 Executive Branch of State government.

46 b. The task force shall issue an interim report on its activities and
47 progress to the Governor and the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of
48 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), within six months from the date of its
49 first meeting. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the

feasibility and logistics of a paperless system in the State government, a cost-benefit analysis concerning all needed technology upgrades, a summary of the benefits of a paperless system, network interoperability, any other information relevant to the subject of the report. The task force shall issue its final report within one year from the date of its first meeting. At a minimum, the final report shall provide updated information contained in the interim report, and any draft legislation the task force deems appropriate.

c. Following the issuance of its final report, the task force shall convene at the call of the chairperson to consider and respond to any written request submitted to it by a legislator or officer or employee of the Executive Branch of State government on any issue, item, or decision set forth in its report.

3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire six months after the issuance of the task force's final report.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes a task force to study the feasibility of a paperless State government. The task force will consist of 15 members. The purpose of the task force will be to study the feasibility and logistics of a paperless system in the Executive branch of State government. At a minimum, the task force will study:

(1) the opportunities and risks associated with using electronic registration and electronic transactions;

(2) different types of technology available for the State to develop a paperless system;

(3) cybersecurity protections and technology upgrades to State computer systems, networks, software, and hardware across all State-level departments, commissions, councils, boards, authorities, offices, or other appropriate agencies;

(4) any cost-benefit analysis concerning all needed technology upgrades;

(5) a summary of the benefits of a paperless system;

(6) how the Legislature can modify current State laws to support a secure paperless system;

(7) the feasibility of implementing a paperless system in the State and the best approach to finance the cost of implementing a paperless system; and

(8) such other topics relative to a paperless system in State government.

The task force will issue an interim report on its activities and progress to the Governor and the Legislature within six months from the date of its first meeting. The task force will issue its final report within one year from the date of its first meeting. Following the issuance of its final report, the task force will convene at the call of the chairperson to consider and respond to any written request

1 submitted to it by a legislator or officer or employee of the
2 Executive branch of State government on any issue, item, or
3 decision set forth in its report. The task force will expire six
4 months after the issuance of the task force's final report.