

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5238

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 11, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson and McKnight**

**SYNOPSIS**

Addresses long-term effects of COVID-19.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/12/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning the long-term effects of COVID-19.

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

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6 1. The Department of Health, in consultation with county and  
7 local health departments, shall develop strategies to establish post-  
8 COVID-19 health clinics that provide physical and mental health  
9 evaluations, physical therapy, and other appropriate services at no  
10 cost to patients who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19.  
11 The Department of Health shall publish informational pamphlets on  
12 post-COVID-19 health clinics, which are to be made available in  
13 pertinent licensed health care facilities.

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15 2. The Department of Health shall establish a public awareness  
16 campaign to increase public awareness of the long-term health  
17 effects of COVID-19 and methods to address such health effects.  
18 The department shall: publish current information on the symptoms  
19 of COVID-19 and the long-term health effects therefrom; publish  
20 informational pamphlets on the long-term health effects of COVID-  
21 19, which are to be made available in pertinent licensed health care  
22 facilities; and educate individuals in medically underserved areas  
23 and areas with statistically adverse health outcomes resulting from  
24 COVID-19 about the long-term health effects of COVID-19.

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26 3. a. There is established the “New Jersey COVID-19 Long-  
27 Term Health Effects Task Force.” The purpose of the task force  
28 shall be to study the long-term health effects of COVID-19 on racial  
29 and ethnic minorities in the State.

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

31 (1) two members of the General Assembly, appointed by the  
32 Speaker of the General Assembly;

33 (2) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of  
34 the Senate;

35 (3) the Commissioner of Health;

36 (4) the Chief State Medical Examiner;

37 (5) one representative from the Office of Minority and  
38 Multicultural Health, appointed by the Governor;

39 (6) one representative from the Office of Public Health,  
40 appointed by the Governor;

41 (7) one representative with epidemiological experience from the  
42 Communicable Disease Service, appointed by the Governor; and

43 (8) six members of the public, appointed by the Governor, that  
44 represent communities and community-based advocacy groups that  
45 reflect the diverse geographic, economic, racial, cultural, gender,  
46 and occupational composition of the State.

1 c. The members of this task force shall be appointed within 30  
2 days after the date of enactment of P.L. ,c. (C. ) (pending  
3 before this Legislature as this bill). The task force shall organize as  
4 soon as practicable after the appointment of a majority of the task  
5 force's members. The presence of eight members shall constitute a  
6 quorum. The Commissioner of Health shall serve as the  
7 chairperson of the task force.

8 d. The task force will meet regularly as the task force  
9 determines, or at the call of the chairperson or a majority of the task  
10 force's membership.

11 e. All meetings of the task force shall be open to the public.  
12 Agendas, minutes, documents, and testimony from all meetings  
13 shall be posted on the Department of Health's Internet website.

14 f. All members of this task force shall serve without  
15 compensation.

16 g. Any vacancies in the membership of this task force shall be  
17 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

18 h. The Department of Health shall provide stenographic,  
19 clerical, and other administrative assistants, and professional staff  
20 as the task force requires to carry out the task force's work. The  
21 task force shall be entitled to call to the task force's assistance and  
22 avail of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
23 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as the  
24 task force may require and as may be available for the task force's  
25 purposes.

26 i. The task force shall prepare and submit to the Governor and  
27 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
28 (C.52:14-19.1) a final report and policy recommendations no later  
29 than one year after the organization of the task force. The task  
30 force shall expire 30 days after the submission of the task force's  
31 report.

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33 4. The Department of Health shall: develop continuing  
34 education courses for health care professionals on the long-term  
35 health effects of COVID-19; develop methods for healthcare  
36 professionals to employ to make patients aware of the long-term  
37 health effects of COVID-19, including the long-term health effects  
38 of COVID-19 on asymptomatic persons; and develop methods for  
39 health care professionals to encourage patients to seek further  
40 medical care, mental health care, or both, for any condition that  
41 may arise as a result of a previous COVID-19 diagnosis.

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43 5. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire one  
44 year following the end of the public health emergency declared in  
45 response to COVID-19.

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STATEMENT

This bill addresses the long-term effects of COVID-19.

Under the bill, the Department of Health (department), in consultation with county and local health departments shall develop strategies to establish post-COVID-19 health clinics that provide physical and mental health evaluations, physical therapy, and other appropriate services at no cost to patients who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19. The department is to publish informational pamphlets on post-COVID-19 health clinics, which are to be made available in pertinent licensed health care facilities. The department is to establish a public awareness campaign to increase public awareness of the long-term health effects of COVID-19 and methods to address such health effects. The department is to: publish current information on the symptoms of COVID-19 and the long-term health effects therefrom; publish informational pamphlets on the long-term health effects of COVID-19, which are to be made available in pertinent licensed health care facilities; and educate individuals in medically underserved areas and areas with statistically adverse health outcomes resulting from COVID-19 about the long-term health effects of COVID-19.

The bill provides for the establishment of the “New Jersey COVID-19 Long-Term Health Effects Task Force.” The purpose of the 15-member task force is to study the long-term health effects of COVID-19 on racial and ethnic minorities in the State. Further, the bill provides that the department is to: develop continuing education courses for health care professionals on the long-term health effects of COVID-19; develop methods for healthcare professionals to employ to make patients aware of the long-term health effects of COVID-19, including the long-term health effects of COVID-19 on asymptomatic persons; and develop methods for health care professionals to encourage patients to seek further medical care, mental health care, or both, for any condition that may arise as a result of a previous COVID-19 diagnosis.