

SENATE, No. 181

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Task Force on Supportive Technology for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the Task Force on Supportive Technology for
2 Individuals with Developmental Disabilities to study
3 opportunities for the expanded use of supportive technology in
4 the State.

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

8
9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. Many New Jerseyans with developmental disabilities
11 encounter obstacles in daily life that could be overcome with the
12 assistance of certain technology.

13 b. Supportive or assistive technology, which includes any
14 product, device, or equipment that may be used to maintain,
15 increase, or improve functional capabilities, can effect positive
16 change in the lives of many individuals.

17 c. Innovations in supportive technology lower barriers faced by
18 persons with disabilities in their daily lives, and can promote
19 greater independence and improved functioning, while enhancing
20 the confidence of those who benefit from using the technology

21 d. Those who provide care and support for individuals with
22 developmental disabilities benefit both from the assistance provided
23 by supportive technology and from learning how to use it to
24 improve the lives of their clients or loved ones.

25 e. In order to better understand and address the challenges
26 faced by persons with developmental disabilities, it is appropriate
27 for the Legislature to establish a task force to study opportunities
28 for the expanded use of supportive technology to improve the lives
29 of persons with developmental disabilities.

30
31 2. a. There is hereby created a task force to be known as the
32 “Task Force on Supportive Technology for Individuals with
33 Developmental Disabilities.” The purpose of the task force shall be
34 to study opportunities for the expanded use of supportive
35 technology for individuals with developmental disabilities in the
36 State and to provide recommendations to the Governor and the
37 Legislature on how the use of supportive technology might improve
38 the lives of individuals, with particular attention to the following
39 areas:

40 (1) proposing State policy initiatives to encourage and support
41 the use of supportive technology by individuals with developmental
42 disabilities;

43 (2) advising of any impediments, law, regulation, or practice
44 that may potentially interfere with the expanded use of supportive
45 technology by individuals with developmental disabilities;

46 (3) identifying areas in which sufficient support for those with
47 developmental disabilities is not currently available and
48 opportunities for the expanded use of supportive technology in the

1 following contexts: employment, education, and the activities of
2 daily life;

3 (4) identify best practices, opportunities for shared services, or
4 potential partnerships that would increase supportive technology
5 opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities; and

6 (5) make recommendations on integrating supportive technology
7 into existing programs.

8 b. The task force shall consist of 15 members as follows: the
9 Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Developmental
10 Disabilities in the Department of Human Services, the Director of
11 the Division of Disability Services in the Department of Human
12 Services, the Director of the Children's System of Care in the
13 Department of Children and Families, and 12 public members to be
14 appointed as follows: three public members to be appointed by the
15 President of the Senate, one of whom shall be a representative of
16 the Bancroft School or another nonprofit provider of specialized
17 services to individuals with developmental disabilities, one of
18 whom shall have professional expertise in the use of supportive
19 technology by persons with intellectual or developmental
20 disabilities, and one of whom shall be a representative of the ARC
21 of New Jersey; three public members to be appointed by the
22 Minority Leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be a
23 representative of New Jersey Developmental Disabilities Advocacy
24 Network, one of whom shall be a representative of the Alliance for
25 the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities, and one of whom shall
26 be a representative of the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center for Excellence
27 in Developmental Disabilities; three public members to be
28 appointed by Speaker of the General Assembly, one of whom shall
29 be a representative of the New Jersey Council on Developmental
30 Disabilities, one of whom shall be a physician or other health care
31 professional with expertise in developmental disability issues, and
32 one of whom shall be a representative of the New Jersey
33 Association of Community Providers; and three public members to
34 be appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly, one
35 of whom shall be an individual with developmental disabilities, one
36 of whom shall be the parent or caregiver of an individual with
37 developmental disabilities, and one of whom shall be a
38 representative of NJ APSE-The Network on Employment.

39 c. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable
40 following the appointment of its members, but not later than the
41 30th day following the appointment of its members. Upon its
42 organization, the task force shall select a chairperson from among
43 its members. The task force may hold meetings at the times and
44 places it may designate. A majority of the authorized membership
45 shall constitute a quorum. The task force may conduct business
46 without a quorum, but may only vote on a recommendation when a
47 quorum is present. The members of the task force shall serve
48 without compensation, but shall be eligible for reimbursement for

1 necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of
2 their official duties within the limits of funds appropriated or
3 otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

4 d. The task force is entitled to receive assistance and services
5 from any State, county, or municipal department, board,
6 commission, or agency as may be made available to it for its
7 purposes.

8 e. Not later than 18 months after the initial meeting of the task
9 force, it shall prepare and submit a written report to the Governor,
10 and to the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c. 164
11 (C.52:14-19.1), outlining its recommendations on how the use of
12 supportive technology might improve the lives of individuals with
13 developmental disabilities in the State as described in subsection a.
14 of section 2 of this act.

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16 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the
17 30th day following submission by the task force of its written
18 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, as required
19 by subsection e. of section 2 of this act.

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22 STATEMENT

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24 This bill establishes the “Task Force on Supportive Technology
25 for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.” The purpose of
26 the task force shall be to study opportunities for the expanded use of
27 supportive technology for individuals with developmental
28 disabilities in the State and provide recommendations to the
29 Governor and the Legislature on how the use of supportive
30 technology could improve the lives of individuals, with particular
31 attention to the following areas:

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33 the use of supportive technology by individuals with developmental
34 disabilities;

35 (2) advising of any impediments, law, regulation, or practice
36 that may potentially interfere with the expanded use of supportive
37 technology by individuals with developmental disabilities;

38 (3) identifying areas in which sufficient support for those with
39 developmental disabilities is not currently available and
40 opportunities for the expanded use of supportive technology in the
41 following contexts: employment, education, and the activities of
42 daily life;

43 (4) identify best practices, opportunities for shared services, or
44 potential partnerships that would increase supportive technology
45 opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities; and

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28 of whom shall be an individual with developmental disabilities, one
29 of whom shall be the parent or caregiver of an individual with
30 developmental disabilities, and one of whom shall be a
31 representative of NJ APSE-The Network on Employment.

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33 appointment of its members, but not later than the 30th day
34 following the appointment of its members. The members of the
35 task force shall serve without compensation, but may be
36 reimbursed for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the
37 performance of their official duties within the limits of funds
38 appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for its
39 purposes.

40 The bill requires that the task force prepare and submit a written
41 report to the Governor and to the Legislature, no later than 18
42 months following its initial meeting, outlining its recommendations
43 for the expanded use of supportive technology for individuals with
44 developmental disabilities in the State. The bill would expire on the
45 30th day following submission by the task force of its written
46 recommendations.