

SENATE, No. 561

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

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SYNOPSIS

Creates Task Force on Driver Distractions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee with technical review.



1 **AN ACT** creating a task force on distracted driving.

2

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

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6 1. The Legislature finds that the increased use of technological
7 devices in today's fast-paced, multi-tasking society has created
8 distractions for drivers in New Jersey, thereby compromising the
9 safety of those using the roads and highways.

10 The Legislature further finds that the study and examination of
11 the hazards of distracted driving, which may encompass
12 communications technology and non-technological activities, is a
13 valuable endeavor that would provide recommendations to aid in
14 protecting users of this State's roads and highways.

15 The Legislature therefore declares that it is altogether fitting and
16 proper, and within the public interest, to create a task force to study
17 and make recommendations concerning driver distractions and their
18 impact on the safety of those who travel this State's roads and
19 highways.

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21 2. a. There is created a task force to be known as the "Task
22 Force on Driver Distractions" to study and make recommendations
23 concerning the impact of driver distractions on road and highway
24 safety.

25 b. The task force shall consist of 13 members as follows: the
26 Commissioner of Transportation, ex officio, or a designee; the
27 Commissioner of Education, ex officio, or a designee; the Chief
28 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, ex
29 officio, or a designee; the Director of the Division of Highway
30 Traffic Safety in the Department of Law and Public Safety, ex
31 officio, or a designee; the Superintendent of State Police, ex officio,
32 or a designee; a member of the County Prosecutors Association of
33 New Jersey or a designee; a member of the New Jersey State
34 Municipal Prosecutors Association or a designee; a member of the
35 New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police or a designee; a
36 member of the Insurance Council of New Jersey or a designee; a
37 member of the Driving School Association of New Jersey or a
38 designee; and three public members, who shall have education or
39 experience in highway traffic safety. The three public members
40 shall be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed
41 by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the
42 General Assembly and one of whom shall be appointed by the
43 Governor upon the recommendation of the President of the Senate.

44 c. The members of the task force shall serve without
45 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
46 incurred in the performance of their duties to the extent that such
47 funds are made available for that purpose.

1 3. a. The task force shall organize within 120 days after the
2 appointment of the three public members and shall select a
3 chairperson. The task force shall meet at the call of the
4 chairperson.

5 b. The Division of Highway Traffic Safety shall provide
6 professional and clerical staff to the task force as may be necessary
7 for the task force's purposes. The task force also shall be entitled to
8 call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees
9 of any State department, board, bureau, commission, or agency, as
10 it may require and as may be available for its purposes, and to
11 employ stenographic and clerical assistance and incur traveling and
12 other miscellaneous expenses as may be necessary in order to
13 perform its duties, within the limits of funds appropriated or
14 otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

15 c. Five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for
16 the transaction of business.

17

18 4. a. The task force shall study and develop recommendations
19 concerning the issue of driver distractions and highway traffic
20 safety including, but not limited to, recent communications
21 technology and non-technological activities.

22 b. The task force shall develop recommendations for public and
23 private strategies and recommendations for legislative or regulatory
24 action, if deemed appropriate, to address these issues. The
25 recommendations shall include suggestions for the development of
26 a public information campaign to increase the public's awareness of
27 the risks associated with driving distractions and to educate and
28 inform motorists of methods to eliminate or minimize these risks.
29 The task force shall also develop recommendations for improving
30 highway traffic safety by reducing motor vehicle accidents related
31 to the use of communications technology in conjunction with the
32 operation of a motor vehicle.

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34 5. Pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the
35 task force shall issue an interim report not more than 180 days after
36 its organization. The task force shall submit a final report
37 containing its findings and recommendations, including any
38 recommendations for legislative or regulatory action that it deems
39 appropriate, no later than one year after the task force's
40 organizational meeting.

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42 6. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire 30
43 days after the issuance of its final report.