

SENATE, No. 1076

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the New Jersey Task Force on Child Support Reform.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** creating the New Jersey Task Force on Child Support
2 Reform.

3

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

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7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey
8 Task Force on Child Support Reform Act."

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10 2. New Jersey Task Force on Child Support Reform,
11 established; purpose.

12 There is established the "New Jersey Task Force on Child
13 Support Reform." The purpose of the task force is to study current
14 law, policies and procedures of New Jersey's child support program
15 and related statutes, to identify problems, and to make
16 recommendations for legislation and strategies to create a more
17 effective and efficient program in the State.

18

19 3. Task force membership. The task force shall consist of 16
20 members as follows: the Commissioner of Human Services, the
21 Commissioner of Corrections the Commissioner of Labor and
22 Workforce Development, the Attorney General, the Chief Justice of
23 the Supreme Court, the Public Defender, or their designees, as ex
24 officio members; two members of the Senate and two members of
25 the General Assembly, no more than one of whom in each case shall
26 be of the same political party; and six public members to be
27 appointed by the Governor.

28 The public members shall be multi-disciplinary child support
29 professionals and interested laypersons.

30 The task force shall be co-chaired; one co-chair shall be the
31 Commissioner of Human Services and the other shall be appointed
32 by the Governor from among the public members and shall serve at
33 the pleasure of the Governor.

34

35 4. Vacancies; compensation. Vacancies in the membership of
36 the task force shall be filled in the same manner provided for the
37 original appointments. The members of the task force shall serve
38 without compensation but may be reimbursed for traveling and
39 other miscellaneous expenses necessary to perform their duties,
40 within the limits of funds made available to the task force for its
41 purposes.

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43 5. Providing staff. The Department of Human Services shall
44 provide professional and clerical staff to the task force as necessary
45 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

46

47 6. Task force's use of services and consultants.

48 a. The task force shall be entitled to call upon the services of

1 any State, county or municipal department, board, commission or
2 agency, as may be available to it for these purposes, and to incur
3 such traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as it may deem
4 necessary for the proper execution of its duties and as may be
5 within the limit of funds appropriated or otherwise made available
6 to it for these purposes.

7 b. The task force shall consult with such organizations and
8 associations as Advocates for Children of New Jersey, the New
9 Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Inc.,
10 the New Jersey State Nurses Association, the New Jersey Education
11 Association, Foster and Adoptive Family Services, and the
12 Graduate School of Social Work of Rutgers, The State University.

13
14 7. Meetings; hearings. The task force may meet and hold
15 hearings at such places as it shall designate during the sessions or
16 recesses of the Legislature.

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18 8. Funds, solicitation, use. The task force may solicit, receive,
19 disburse and monitor grants and other funds made available from
20 any governmental, public, private, not-for-profit or for-profit
21 agency, including funds made available under any federal or State
22 law, regulation or program.

23
24 9. Report. The task force shall present a report of its findings
25 and recommendations to the Governor and pursuant to section 2 of
26 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than 18
27 months after the organization of the task force. The task force shall
28 dissolve three months after presenting the report.

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30 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

31 32 33 STATEMENT

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35 This bill creates a 16-member task force to review current law,
36 practices and procedures of New Jersey's child support program
37 and related statutes.

38 The task force would consist of the Commissioner of Human
39 Services, the Commissioner of Corrections, the Commissioner of
40 Labor and Workforce Development, the Attorney General, the Chief
41 Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Public Defender, or their
42 designees, as ex officio members; two members of the Senate and
43 two members of the General Assembly, no more than one of whom
44 in each case shall be of the same political party; and six public
45 members to be appointed by the Governor.

46 The public members would be multi-disciplinary child support
47 professionals and interested laypersons.

48 The bill provides that the task force would consult with such

1 organizations and associations as Advocates for Children of New
2 Jersey, the New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of
3 Social Workers, Inc., the New Jersey State Nurses Association, the
4 New Jersey Education Association, Foster and Adoptive Family
5 Services, and the Graduate School of Social Work of Rutgers, The
6 State University.
7 This bill directs the task force to submit a report to the
8 Legislature no later than 18 months after the organization of the
9 task force with recommendations for legislation and strategies to
10 create a more effective and efficient program.