

SENATE, No. 1662

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Task Force on Institutional Discrimination in Health Care.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the Task Force on Institutional Discrimination
2 in Health Care.

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 in the Department of Health the Task
8 Force on Institutional Discrimination in Health Care. The purpose
9 of the task force shall be to study and evaluate reasons for unequal
10 health care outcomes among patients of different races and
11 socioeconomic classes.

12 b. The task force shall be comprised of 19 members as follows:

13 (1) the Commissioner of Health, or the commissioner's
14 designee, who shall serve ex officio;

15 (2) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

16 (3) a representative from the Office of Population Health in the
17 Department of Health, or the representative's designee;

18 (4) a representative from the Health Systems Branch of the
19 Department of Health, or the representative's designee;

20 (5) the Director of the Division on Civil Rights in the
21 Department of Law and Public Safety, or the director's designee;

22 (6) 10 members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:
23 one member from each of the following entities: the State Board of
24 Medical Examiners; the New Jersey Board of Nursing; the New
25 Jersey State Board of Dentistry; the New Jersey State Board of
26 Optometrists; the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners; the State
27 Board of Physical Therapy Examiners; the Audiology and Speech-
28 Language Pathology Advisory Committee in the Division of
29 Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety;
30 Families USA; the New Jersey Hospital Association; and the Office
31 of Emergency Medical Services in the Department of Health;

32 (7) one member appointed by the Governor upon the
33 recommendation of the President of the Senate and one member
34 appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the
35 Minority Leader of the Senate, both of whom shall be members of
36 the public with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work
37 of the task force; and

38 (8) one member appointed by the Governor upon the
39 recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly and one
40 member appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of
41 the Minority Leader of the General Assembly, both of whom shall
42 be members of the public with demonstrated expertise in issues
43 relating to the work of the task force.

44 c. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
45 after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of
46 the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
47 appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve
48 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary

1 expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members
2 of the task force within the limits of funds appropriated or
3 otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

4
5 2. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but no
6 later than 30 days following the appointment of its members. The
7 task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members and
8 shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task
9 force. The presence of 10 members of the task force shall
10 constitute a quorum. The task force may conduct business without
11 a quorum, but may only vote on recommendations when a quorum
12 is present.

13
14 3. The Department of Health shall provide stenographic,
15 clerical, and other administrative assistants and professional staff as
16 the task force requires for its purposes. The task force shall be
17 entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the
18 employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board,
19 bureau, commission, or agency as it may require and as may be
20 available for its purposes.

21
22 4. The task force shall study and evaluate aspects of the
23 institution of health care that may contribute to unequal health
24 outcomes for patients of different races and socioeconomic classes.
25 The task force shall:

26 a. review existing research, studies, and data concerning
27 unequal health outcomes for patients of different races and
28 socioeconomic classes; and

29 b. identify specific policies for diminishing unequal health
30 outcomes for patients of different races and socioeconomic classes,
31 including, but not limited to, institutional analyses of hospitals and
32 other facilities and training on racism in the medical profession.

33
34 5. a. The task force shall issue a report to the Governor, and to
35 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
36 19.1), no later than six months after the task force organizes. The
37 report shall contain the task force's findings and recommendations.

38 b. The task force shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its
39 report.

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41 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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44 STATEMENT

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46 This bill establishes the Task Force on Institutional
47 Discrimination in Health Care (task force).

1 Under the bill, the task force is to study and evaluate aspects of
2 the institution of health care that may contribute to unequal health
3 outcomes for patients of different races and socioeconomic classes.
4 The task force is to: (1) review existing research, studies, and data
5 concerning unequal health outcomes for patients of different races
6 and socioeconomic classes; and (2) identify specific policies for
7 diminishing unequal health outcomes for patients of different races
8 and socioeconomic classes, including, but not limited to,
9 institutional analyses of hospitals and other facilities and training on
10 racism in the medical profession.