

SENATE, No. 2013

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to examine and make recommendations regarding professional development requirements for public school teachers and school leaders.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a task force to examine professional
2 development requirements for teachers and school leaders.

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

6
7 1. a. There is created a task force for the purpose of
8 examining, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding the
9 current professional development requirements for public school
10 teachers and school leaders as established pursuant to State statutes
11 and State Board of Education regulations.

12 b. The task force shall consist of the following nine members:

13 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee;

14 (2) five members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:
15 one member upon the recommendation of the American Federation
16 of Teachers New Jersey; one member upon the recommendation of
17 the New Jersey School Boards Association; one member upon the
18 recommendation of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
19 Association; one member upon the recommendation of the New
20 Jersey Association of School Administrators; and one member upon
21 the recommendation of the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association;
22 and

23 (3) three members of the public, each of whom has specialized
24 knowledge or expertise in issues related to the work of the task
25 force. One of the public members shall be appointed by the
26 Governor, one shall be appointed by the Senate President, and one
27 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

28 Members appointed pursuant to this subsection, where
29 applicable, shall be individuals who are subject to the State
30 professional development requirements for public school teachers
31 or school leaders.

32 c. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
33 of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of the
34 task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
35 appointments were made.

36 d. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
37 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the
38 performance of their duties as members of the task force within the
39 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
40 force for its purposes.

41
42 2. a. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but
43 no later than 30 days following the appointment of its members.
44 The task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members
45 and shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task
46 force.

47 b. The Department of Education shall provide such
48 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such

1 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.
2 The task force also shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
3 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
4 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
5 may require and as may be available for its purposes.
6

7 3. It shall be the duty of the task force to study, evaluate, and
8 make recommendations regarding the State-mandated professional
9 development requirements for public school teachers and school
10 leaders in New Jersey. The task force shall:

11 a. study the current professional development requirements for
12 public school teachers and school leaders established pursuant to
13 State statutes and State Board of Education regulations;

14 b. evaluate the scope of the current professional development
15 requirements including, but not limited to, an assessment of the
16 particular topics covered, the overall number of requirements, and
17 the hours and frequency of the requirements; and

18 c. make recommendations concerning professional
19 development for public school teachers and school leaders
20 including, but not limited to, recommendations regarding the
21 necessity and relevance of the trainings currently required, whether
22 the requirements may be overly burdensome in number or
23 frequency, whether more or less time should be devoted to
24 particular subject matters, and topics not covered that may be
25 advisable to include in the requirements.
26

27 4. The task force shall issue a final report of its findings and
28 recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant
29 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12
30 months after the task force organizes.
31

32 5. This act shall take effect immediately, and the task force
33 shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its report.
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36 STATEMENT
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38 This bill establishes a nine-member task force to examine,
39 evaluate, and make recommendations regarding the current
40 professional development requirements for public school teachers
41 and school leaders in New Jersey. The task force will consist of the
42 Commissioner of Education or a designee; five members appointed
43 by the Governor, who will include one member upon the
44 recommendation of the American Federation of Teachers New
45 Jersey, one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
46 School Boards Association, one member upon the recommendation
47 of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, one
48 member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association

1 of School Administrators, and one member upon the
2 recommendation of the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association; and
3 three members of the public who have specialized knowledge or
4 expertise in issues related to the work of the task force. The
5 Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the General
6 Assembly will each appoint one of the public members. Appointed
7 members of the task force, where applicable, will be individuals
8 who are subject to the State professional development requirements
9 for public school teachers or school leaders.

10 Under the bill, the task force is charged with studying,
11 evaluating, and making recommendations regarding the State-
12 mandated professional development requirements for public school
13 teachers and school leaders in New Jersey. The task force will:

- 14 • study the current professional development requirements for
15 public school teachers and school leaders established
16 pursuant to State statutes and State Board of Education
17 regulations;
- 18 • evaluate the scope of the current professional development
19 requirements including, but not limited to, an assessment of
20 the particular topics covered, the overall number of
21 requirements, and the hours and frequency of the
22 requirements; and
- 23 • make recommendations concerning professional
24 development for public school teachers and school leaders
25 including, but not limited to, recommendations regarding the
26 necessity and relevance of the trainings currently required,
27 whether the requirements may be overly burdensome in
28 number or frequency, whether more or less time should be
29 devoted to particular subject matters, and topics not covered
30 that may be advisable to include in the requirements.

31 The task force is required to issue a final report of its findings
32 and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature within 12
33 months of its organization.