

SENATE, No. 2805

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Police Body Camera Implementation Task Force” to study and make recommendations concerning use of body cameras by law enforcement agencies in this State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the “Police Body Camera Implementation
2 Task Force.”

3

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

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7 1. a. There is established a task force to be known as the
8 “Police Body Camera Implementation Task Force” whose charge
9 shall be to study and make recommendations on the use of body
10 cameras by certain law enforcement officers in this State, including
11 but not limited to requirements for implementation and
12 development of best practices for the use of these cameras and rules
13 for access to and use of body camera recordings. For the purposes
14 of this act, “body camera” shall mean a device worn by a law
15 enforcement officer that electronically records audio and video
16 while the officer acts in the performance of the officer’s official
17 duties.

18 b. The task force shall consist of 17 members as follows:

19 (1) the Chair of the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee;

20 (2) the Chair of the Assembly Law and Public Safety
21 Committee;

22 (3) the Attorney General or a designee, who shall serve ex
23 officio;

24 (4) the New Jersey Public Defender or a designee, who shall
25 serve ex officio;

26 (5) a representative of the New Jersey State Policemen's
27 Benevolent Association, Inc.;

28 (6) a representative of the New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police;

29 (7) a representative of the New Jersey State Association of
30 Chiefs of Police;

31 (8) a representative of the County Prosecutors’ Association of
32 New Jersey;

33 (9) the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties
34 Union of New Jersey;

35 (10) a representative of the Police Institute at the Rutgers School
36 of Criminal Justice;

37 (11) a representative of the National Association for the
38 Advancement of Colored People;

39 (12) a public member appointed by the Governor who is a law
40 enforcement officer in a municipality that currently utilizes body
41 cameras;

42 (13) a public member appointed by the Governor who is a
43 victims’ rights advocate;

44 (14) a member to be appointed by the minority leader of the
45 Senate;

46 (15) a member to be appointed by the minority leader of the
47 General Assembly;

1 (16) a mayor representing an urban municipality as designated
2 by the President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities;
3 and

4 (17) a mayor representing a suburban municipality as designated
5 by the President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

6 c. All appointments to the task force shall be made within 30
7 days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies shall be filled in
8 the same manner as the original appointments. The Attorney
9 General shall serve as the chair of the task force. The chair shall
10 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force. The
11 members of the task force shall serve without compensation but
12 may be reimbursed, within the limits of funds made available to the
13 task force, for necessary travel expenses incurred in the
14 performance of their duties.

15 d. The chair shall call an initial meeting of the task force within
16 seven days of the appointment of a majority of its members and
17 hold hearings at the times and in the places it may deem appropriate
18 and necessary to fulfill its charge. The task force shall be entitled to
19 call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees
20 of any State, county or municipal department, board, bureau,
21 commission or agency as it may require and as may be available to
22 it for its purposes.

23 e. The task force may seek the advice of experts, such as
24 persons specializing in the fields of criminology, psychology,
25 education, criminal or family law, or other related fields as deemed
26 appropriate by the membership of the task force.

27 f. A report of the task force's findings and recommendations
28 shall be submitted to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
29 P.L.1991, c.164 (C:52:14-19.1), to the President of the Senate and
30 Speaker of the General Assembly no later than December 30, 2021.

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32 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
33 submission of the task force's final report to the Governor and
34 Legislature.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill establishes a "Police Body Camera Implementation
40 Task Force" to study and make recommendations on the use of
41 body cameras by certain law enforcement officers in this State
42 including, but not limited to, requirements for implementation and
43 development of best practices for the use of these cameras and rules
44 for access to and use of body camera recordings.

45 The bill defines a "body camera" as a device worn by a law
46 enforcement officer that electronically records audio and video
47 while the officer acts in the performance of the officer's official
48 duties.

1 The 17-member task force under the bill would be comprised of
2 the following members: (1) the Chair of the Senate Law and Public
3 Safety Committee; (2) the Chair of the Assembly Law and Public
4 Safety Committee; (3) the Attorney General or a designee, who
5 shall serve ex officio; (4) the New Jersey Public Defender or a
6 designee, who shall serve ex officio; (5) a representative of the New
7 Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, Inc.; (6) a
8 representative of the New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police; (7) a
9 representative of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of
10 Police; (8) a representative of the of the County Prosecutors'
11 Association of New Jersey; (9) the Executive Director of the
12 American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey; (10) a
13 representative of the Police Institute at the Rutgers School of
14 Criminal Justice; (11) a representative of the National Association
15 for the Advancement of Colored People; (12) a public member
16 appointed by the Governor who is a law enforcement officer in a
17 municipality that currently utilizes police body cameras; (13) a
18 public member appointed by the Governor who is a victims' rights
19 advocate; (14) a member to be appointed by the minority leader of
20 the Senate; (15) a member to be appointed by the minority leader of
21 the General Assembly; (16) a mayor representing an urban
22 municipality as designated by the President of the New Jersey
23 League of Municipalities; and (17) a mayor representing a suburban
24 municipality as designated by the President of the New Jersey
25 League of Municipalities.

26 The bill requires the task force appointments to be made within
27 30 days of the bill's effective date. The Attorney General is to
28 serve as the chair of the task force and is required to appoint a
29 secretary. The chair is to call an initial meeting of the task force
30 within seven days of the appointment of a majority of its members
31 and hold hearings at the times and in the places it may deem
32 appropriate and necessary to fulfill its charge. The task force may
33 seek the advice of experts, such as persons specializing in the fields
34 of criminology, psychology, education, criminal or family law, or
35 other related fields.

36 Under the bill, the task force is required to report its findings and
37 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than
38 December 30, 2021.