

SENATE, No. 3770

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 11, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Addresses long-term effects of COVID-19.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the long-term effects of COVID-19.

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

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6 1. The Department of Health, in consultation with county and
7 local health departments, shall develop strategies to establish post-
8 COVID-19 health clinics that provide physical and mental health
9 evaluations, physical therapy, and other appropriate services at no
10 cost to patients who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19.
11 The Department of Health shall publish informational pamphlets on
12 post-COVID-19 health clinics, which are to be made available in
13 pertinent licensed health care facilities.

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15 2. The Department of Health shall establish a public awareness
16 campaign to increase public awareness of the long-term health
17 effects of COVID-19 and methods to address such health effects.
18 The department shall: publish current information on the symptoms
19 of COVID-19 and the long-term health effects therefrom; publish
20 informational pamphlets on the long-term health effects of COVID-
21 19, which are to be made available in pertinent licensed health care
22 facilities; and educate individuals in medically underserved areas
23 and areas with statistically adverse health outcomes resulting from
24 COVID-19 about the long-term health effects of COVID-19.

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26 3. a. There is established the “New Jersey COVID-19 Long-
27 Term Health Effects Task Force.” The purpose of the task force
28 shall be to study the long-term health effects of COVID-19 on racial
29 and ethnic minorities in the State.

30 b. The task force shall consist of 15 members as follows:

31 (1) two members of the General Assembly, appointed by the
32 Speaker of the General Assembly;

33 (2) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the
34 Senate;

35 (3) the Commissioner of Health;

36 (4) the Chief State Medical Examiner;

37 (5) one representative from the Office of Minority and
38 Multicultural Health, appointed by the Governor;

39 (6) one representative from the Office of Public Health,
40 appointed by the Governor;

41 (7) one representative with epidemiological experience from the
42 Communicable Disease Service, appointed by the Governor; and

43 (8) six members of the public, appointed by the Governor, that
44 represent communities and community-based advocacy groups that
45 reflect the diverse geographic, economic, racial, cultural, gender,
46 and occupational composition of the State.

47 c. The members of this task force shall be appointed within 30
48 days after the date of enactment of P.L. ,c. (C.) (pending

1 before this Legislature as this bill). The task force shall organize as
2 soon as practicable after the appointment of a majority of the task
3 force's members. The presence of eight members shall constitute a
4 quorum. The Commissioner of Health shall serve as the
5 chairperson of the task force.

6 d. The task force will meet regularly as the task force
7 determines, or at the call of the chairperson or a majority of the task
8 force's membership.

9 e. All meetings of the task force shall be open to the public.
10 Agendas, minutes, documents, and testimony from all meetings
11 shall be posted on the Department of Health's Internet website.

12 f. All members of this task force shall serve without
13 compensation.

14 g. Any vacancies in the membership of this task force shall be
15 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

16 h. The Department of Health shall provide stenographic,
17 clerical, and other administrative assistants, and professional staff
18 as the task force requires to carry out the task force's work. The
19 task force shall be entitled to call to the task force's assistance and
20 avail of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
21 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as the
22 task force may require and as may be available for the task force's
23 purposes.

24 i. The task force shall prepare and submit to the Governor and to
25 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
26 19.1) a final report and policy recommendations no later than one
27 year after the organization of the task force. The task force shall
28 expire 30 days after the submission of the task force's report.

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30 4. The Department of Health shall: develop continuing
31 education courses for health care professionals on the long-term
32 health effects of COVID-19; develop methods for healthcare
33 professionals to employ to make patients aware of the long-term
34 health effects of COVID-19, including the long-term health effects
35 of COVID-19 on asymptomatic persons; and develop methods for
36 health care professionals to encourage patients to seek further
37 medical care, mental health care, or both, for any condition that
38 may arise as a result of a previous COVID-19 diagnosis.

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40 5. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire one
41 year following the end of the public health emergency declared in
42 response to COVID-19.

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45 STATEMENT

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47 This bill addresses the long-term effects of COVID-19.

1 Under the bill, the Department of Health (department), in
2 consultation with county and local health departments shall develop
3 strategies to establish post-COVID-19 health clinics that provide
4 physical and mental health evaluations, physical therapy, and other
5 appropriate services at no cost to patients who were previously
6 diagnosed with COVID-19. The department is to publish
7 informational pamphlets on post-COVID-19 health clinics, which
8 are to be made available in pertinent licensed health care facilities.
9 The department is to establish a public awareness campaign to
10 increase public awareness of the long-term health effects of
11 COVID-19 and methods to address such health effects. The
12 department is to: publish current information on the symptoms of
13 COVID-19 and the long-term health effects therefrom; publish
14 informational pamphlets on the long-term health effects of COVID-
15 19, which are to be made available in pertinent licensed health care
16 facilities; and educate individuals in medically underserved areas
17 and areas with statistically adverse health outcomes resulting from
18 COVID-19 about the long-term health effects of COVID-19.

19 The bill provides for the establishment of the “New Jersey
20 COVID-19 Long-Term Health Effects Task Force.” The purpose of
21 the 15-member task force is to study the long-term health effects of
22 COVID-19 on racial and ethnic minorities in the State. Further, the
23 bill provides that the department is to: develop continuing
24 education courses for health care professionals on the long-term
25 health effects of COVID-19; develop methods for healthcare
26 professionals to employ to make patients aware of the long-term
27 health effects of COVID-19, including the long-term health effects
28 of COVID-19 on asymptomatic persons; and develop methods for
29 health care professionals to encourage patients to seek further
30 medical care, mental health care, or both, for any condition that
31 may arise as a result of a previous COVID-19 diagnosis.