

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 91

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to study ways to increase diversity within law enforcement agencies.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/11/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** establishing a task force to study ways to
2 increase diversity and community representation within law
3 enforcement agencies.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Law enforcement officers serve a vital role in all
6 communities of this State by enforcing the law, controlling crime,
7 and maintaining public order and safety; and

8 **WHEREAS**, In addition to the regular training law enforcement officers
9 receive, their own personal experiences and backgrounds can be
10 extremely valuable in their daily community interactions; and

11 **WHEREAS**, When law enforcement officers have a personal
12 understanding of the common experiences of members of a
13 community, it helps to promote trust between law enforcement
14 officers and the community; and

15 **WHEREAS**, In recognition of this, many law enforcement agencies
16 have taken measures to increase the diversity of their officers, such
17 as focusing recruitment efforts on underrepresented groups and
18 providing mentoring to new recruits; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Despite these ongoing efforts to increase diversity within
20 law enforcement agencies, many still do not reflect the diversity of
21 the communities they serve, which may put law enforcement
22 agencies at a disadvantage when trying to build community
23 relationships; and

24 **WHEREAS**, It is important for law enforcement agencies to expand
25 their efforts to diversify, and to consider all possible strategies that
26 may help to accomplish this goal, so that law enforcement officers
27 and the communities they serve can work together to keep all
28 residents of the State of New Jersey safe; now, therefore,

29
30 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
31 *State of New Jersey:*

32
33 1. a. There is established the “New Jersey Diversity in Law
34 Enforcement Task Force.” The task force shall study ways to
35 increase diversity and community representation within law
36 enforcement agencies throughout the State of New Jersey including
37 State, local, and municipal police departments.

38 b. The task force shall consist of 13 members as follows:

39 (1) one member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the
40 Senate, and one member of the General Assembly, appointed by the
41 Speaker of the General Assembly, who shall each be of different
42 political parties;

43 (2) the Attorney General, or a designee;

44 (3) the President of the New Jersey State Policemen’s
45 Benevolent Association, or a designee;

46 (4) the President of the New Jersey State Troopers Fraternal
47 Association, or a designee;

- 1 (5) the President of the New Jersey State Fraternal Order of
2 Police, or a designee;
- 3 (6) the National President of the National Organization of Black
4 Law Enforcement Executives, or a designee;
- 5 (7) the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties
6 Union of New Jersey, or a designee;
- 7 (8) the President of the New Jersey State Conference of the
8 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
9 (NAACP), or a designee;
- 10 (9) two representatives of a police department in New Jersey,
11 appointed by the Governor. One of these representatives should
12 represent an urban community and one of these representatives
13 should represent a non-urban community; and
- 14 (10) two members of the public, appointed by the Governor.
15 One of these public members should represent an urban community
16 and one of these public members should represent a non-urban
17 community.
- 18 c. The members of this task force shall be appointed within 30
19 days of the effective date of this resolution. The task force shall
20 organize as soon as practicable after the appointment of the task
21 force's members and the task force shall choose a chairperson from
22 among its members. The presence of seven members shall
23 constitute a quorum.
- 24 d. The task force shall meet regularly as the task force
25 determines or at the call of the chairperson. The task force shall
26 hold at least three public hearings in different parts of the State and
27 elicit testimony from the public at such times and places as the chair
28 shall designate.
- 29 e. The members of the task force shall serve without
30 compensation.
- 31 f. Any vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be
32 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
- 33 g. The Department of Law and Public Safety shall provide
34 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistance and
35 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out the task
36 force's work. The task force shall be entitled to call to the task
37 force's assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees
38 of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau,
39 commission, or agency as the task force may require and as may be
40 available for the task force's purposes.
- 41
- 42 2. a. The task force shall study methods by which to increase
43 diversity and community representation within law enforcement
44 agencies across the State of New Jersey. The task force shall
45 specifically:
 - 46 (1) examine current data, research, and policies related to
47 diversity issues within law enforcement agencies;

1 Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Executive
2 Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, the
3 President of the New Jersey State Conference of the National
4 Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), two
5 representatives of local police departments throughout the State,
6 and two representatives of the public. The task force shall examine
7 current data, research, and policies related to diversity issues within
8 law enforcement agencies and examine current diversity present
9 within law enforcement agencies across the State including State,
10 local, and municipal police departments. In addition, the task force
11 shall identify effective strategies to increase diversity and
12 community representation within the State's law enforcement
13 agencies and develop recommendations to implement those
14 strategies within law enforcement agencies. Within a year after the
15 organization of the task force, the task force shall submit a report to
16 the Governor and the Legislature of the task force's findings and
17 recommendations.