

ASSEMBLY, No. 4599

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Flynn

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to study technology and other methods used to reduce or eliminate telemarketing harassment and intimidation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/13/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing a task force to study technology and other
2 methods used to reduce or eliminate telemarketing harassment
3 and intimidation.

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

7
8 1. a. There is established in the Division of Consumer Affairs
9 in the Department of Law and Public Safety a task force to study
10 technology and other methods used to reduce telemarketing
11 harassment and intimidation. The purpose of this task force is to
12 evaluate and make recommendations relating to the cost and
13 feasibility of implementing appropriate technology and other
14 methods to eliminate or reduce incidents of telemarketing
15 harassment and intimidation of consumers in this State.

16 b. The task force shall consist of 11 members as follows:

17 (1) the Attorney General, the Director of the Division of
18 Consumer Affairs, and the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel,
19 or their designees, who shall serve ex-officio; and

20 (2) eight public members who shall be appointed by the
21 Governor, including a telecommunications technology expert from
22 AT&T Communications of New Jersey, a telecommunications
23 technology expert from Verizon New Jersey, a telecommunications
24 technology expert from Verizon New Jersey with particular
25 expertise in fiber optic technology, a representative from the
26 American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), a representative
27 from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and three senior
28 citizens who have experienced telemarketing harassment and
29 intimidation.

30 c. Within 90 days after the effective date of P.L. ,
31 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a majority
32 of the task force's authorized membership shall be appointed, and
33 the task force shall hold its initial meeting. The task force shall
34 organize upon the appointment of a majority of its authorized
35 membership and shall elect a chair from among the members. The
36 members of the task force, other than those serving ex-officio, shall
37 serve for the duration of the existence of the task force. Any
38 vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original
39 appointment. The task force members shall serve without
40 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses
41 incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits of funds
42 available to the task force.

43 d. Not later than 180 days after the initial meeting of the task
44 force, the task force shall issue a report to the Governor and to the
45 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),
46 which shall include, but not be limited to, a cost-benefit analysis
47 concerning the implementation of technology and other methods
48 that may be used to reduce telemarketing harassment and

1 intimidation of consumers in this State, the various options for
2 financing the cost of implementation, any other information
3 relevant to the subject of the report, and any draft legislation the
4 task force deems appropriate to implement the purposes of P.L. ,
5 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

6 e. The task force shall be entitled to the assistance and services
7 of employees of any State board, bureau, commission, or agency as
8 the task force may require and as may be available to it for these
9 purposes, including, but not limited to, stenographic and clerical
10 assistance.

11 f. The Office of Information Technology shall assist the task
12 force in the performance of its duties and provide the task force
13 with studies, data, or other materials, to the extent that the
14 assistance is relevant to the purposes of the task force.

15
16 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
17 the issuance of the report submitted by the task force pursuant to
18 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
19 this bill).

20 21 22 STATEMENT

23
24 This bill establishes in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
25 Department of Law and Public Safety a task force to study
26 technology and other methods used to reduce or eliminate
27 telemarketing harassment and intimidation. The purpose of this
28 task for is to evaluate and make recommendations relating to the
29 cost and feasibility of implementing appropriate technology and
30 other methods to reduce incidents of telemarketing harassment and
31 intimidation of consumers in this State.

32 The task force is to consist of 11 members as follows:

33 1) the Attorney General, the Director of the Division of
34 Consumer Affairs, and the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel,
35 or their designees, who are to serve ex-officio; and

36 2) eight public members who shall be appointed by the
37 Governor, including a telecommunications technology expert from
38 AT&T Communications of New Jersey, a telecommunications
39 technology expert from Verizon New Jersey, a telecommunications
40 technology expert from Verizon New Jersey with particular
41 expertise in fiber optic technology, a representative from the
42 American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), a representative
43 from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and three senior
44 citizens who have experienced telemarketing harassment and
45 intimidation.

46 The bill requires the task force is to issue a report to the
47 Governor and to the Legislature, which is to include, but not be
48 limited to, a cost-benefit analysis concerning the implementation of

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1 technology and other methods that may be used to reduce
2 telemarketing harassment and intimidation in this State, the various
3 options for financing the cost of implementation, any other
4 information relevant to the subject of the report, and any draft
5 legislation the task force deems appropriate to implement the
6 purposes of this bill.