

SENATE, No. 2885

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 20, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator NIA H. GILL

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “New Jersey Vision Zero Task Force.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/29/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing the “New Jersey Vision Zero Task Force” and
2 supplementing Title 27 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. There is established in, but not of, the Department of
8 Transportation, the “New Jersey Vision Zero Task Force.”

9 b. The task force shall consist of 21 members, as follows:

10 (1) the Commissioner of Transportation, ex officio, or the
11 commissioner’s designee;

12 (2) the Superintendent of State Police, ex officio, or the
13 superintendent’s designee;

14 (3) the Commissioner of Health, ex officio, or the
15 commissioner’s designee;

16 (4) the Commissioner of Community Affairs, ex officio, or the
17 commissioner’s designee;

18 (5) the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
19 Commission, ex officio, or the chief administrator’s designee;

20 (6) the Director of the Office of Environmental Justice in the
21 Department of Environmental Protection, ex officio, or the
22 director’s designee;

23 (7) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Transit
24 Corporation, ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;

25 (8) the Executive Director of the North Jersey Transportation
26 Planning Authority, ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;

27 (9) the Executive Director of the South Jersey Transportation
28 Planning Organization, ex officio, or the executive director’s
29 designee;

30 (10) a New Jersey resident appointed by the Executive Director
31 of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission;

32 (11) a representative of the Department of Transportation with
33 expertise in bicycle and pedestrian programs, who shall be
34 designated by the Commissioner of Transportation;

35 (12) two members of the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed
36 by the Senate President and one of whom shall be appointed by the
37 Minority Leader of the Senate, which members shall not be of the
38 same political party;

39 (13) two members of the General Assembly, one of whom shall
40 be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one of
41 whom shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the General
42 Assembly, which members shall not be of the same political party;
43 and

44 (14) six public members appointed by the Governor, of which
45 one or more of the following shall be represented: a group
46 representing vulnerable road users; a New Jersey resident that was
47 injured or lost a family member in a traffic crash; a community that
48 has been burdened by environmental justice issues; a person

1 representing people with mobility, visual, or cognitive impairments;
2 a New Jersey Transit Corporation bus rider; a person representing
3 people between the ages of 16 and 26 who is interested and active
4 in creating safer roadways for vulnerable road users; a person
5 representing people over the age of 65 who is interested and active
6 in creating safer roadways for vulnerable road users.

7 c. Each public member of the task force shall serve for a term of
8 three years, except that, of the members first appointed, two
9 members shall serve for an initial term of one year, two members
10 shall serve for an initial term of two years, and two members shall
11 serve for an initial term of three years. Each member shall serve for
12 the term of appointment until the member's successor is appointed.
13 A public member who has completed a term of membership may be
14 reappointed to the task force. Vacancies in the task force shall be
15 filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made.

16 d. The members of the task force shall be appointed within 60
17 days after the effective date of this act, and the task force shall hold
18 its initial organizational meeting as soon as practicable, but no later
19 than 30 days after the appointment of a majority of its members.
20 The chairperson of the task force shall be selected by a majority of
21 the membership of the task force, and the task force shall meet no
22 less than twice per year at such places and times as the chairperson
23 may designate. The chairperson may appoint a secretary who need
24 not be a member of the task force.

25 e. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
26 but may be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses
27 incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits of
28 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for
29 its purposes.

30 f. The Department of Transportation shall provide professional,
31 stenographic, and clerical staff to the task force, as may be
32 necessary for the task force to carry out its duties. The task force
33 shall also be entitled to call upon the services of any State, county,
34 or municipal department, board, commission, or agency, as may be
35 available to it for its purposes.

36

37 2. a. For the purposes of this section:

38 "Active transportation" means mobility options powered
39 primarily by human energy, including pedestrian mobility, such as
40 walking and running; mobility assistive devices, such as
41 wheelchairs, bicycles, and cycles; and small personal devices, such
42 as skateboards and foot scooters, and that consider and address
43 accommodations pursuant to the "Americans with Disabilities Act
44 of 1990" (42 U.S.C. s.12101 et seq.).

45 "Safe system approach" means evaluating traffic safety and
46 designing a transportation system with the goal of eliminating fatal
47 and serious injuries for all road users by acknowledging that: traffic
48 deaths and serious injuries are unacceptable, humans make

1 mistakes, humans are vulnerable, responsibility is shared, safety is
2 proactive, and redundancy is crucial.

3 “Vision zero strategies” means actionable strategies using the
4 safe system approach and include, but are not limited to, prioritizing
5 roadway design, focusing on speed management, ensuring
6 enforcement is equitable, and utilizing impactful education
7 strategies.

8 b. The purpose and duties of the task force shall be to study,
9 examine, and review all aspects of traffic safety with a particular
10 focus on access, equity, and mobility for all road users using the
11 safe system approach and to advise the Governor, the Legislature,
12 and the Department of Transportation regarding policies, programs,
13 research, and priorities to help achieve the goal of eliminating
14 traffic fatalities and serious injuries. To fulfill this purpose and
15 these duties, the task force shall:

16 (1) develop a comprehensive and coordinated action plan to help
17 achieve the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries
18 on all public roadways in the State through engineering, education,
19 and enforcement systems that analyze physical transportation
20 designs with a focus on the equitable treatment of all transportation
21 users;

22 (2) identify short-term and long-term data-driven strategies with
23 measurable goals and target dates to reduce traffic fatalities and
24 serious injuries with the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and
25 serious injuries by 2035;

26 (3) promote effective and transparent collection of traffic safety
27 data and dissemination of such data via a publicly accessible data
28 portal that includes, but is not limited to, the most dangerous
29 intersections in the State, traffic crash data with information on
30 non-fatal injuries and demographic data, and a high injury network
31 that indicates the roadways, in the State, with the highest injury
32 rates;

33 (4) encourage the elimination of road hazards by advancing
34 active transportation and mass transit as safe and viable forms of
35 transportation throughout the State for persons of all ages and
36 abilities;

37 (5) provide recommendations for changes to State, county, and
38 municipal law to achieve the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities
39 and serious injuries by 2035;

40 (6) develop an action plan to implement and promote the safe
41 system approach, vision zero strategies, and evidenced-based safety
42 countermeasures to help achieve the goal of eliminating traffic
43 fatalities and severe injuries among all road users;

44 (7) create and maintain an interactive Internet website to provide
45 information about the task force, including: the membership of the
46 task force; the task force’s plans, progress reports, meeting notices,
47 agendas, and minutes; educational materials about vision zero; a
48 link to the safety portal required pursuant to paragraph (3) of this

1 subsection; and any other information the task force deems
2 necessary;

3 (8) serve as an advisor to the Department of Transportation and
4 other State agencies and transportation authorities with regard to
5 roadway planning and transportation infrastructure planning;

6 (9) provide advice and assistance to county and municipal
7 governments to develop their own vision zero plans;

8 (10) review and provide feedback on an annual basis to the
9 Department of Transportation, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority,
10 and the South Jersey Transportation Authority on their respective
11 capital plans before these entities provide testimony at their
12 respective public budget hearings before the Legislature. The
13 feedback shall be made publicly available on the website of the task
14 force before the entities provide such testimony; and

15 (11) report annually to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
16 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on the findings
17 and activities of the task force, including the number of road traffic
18 fatalities and serious injuries and the review of the implementation
19 of the action plans. The task force shall submit the report before
20 the third Sunday in November of each year, which is World Day of
21 Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

22

23 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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25

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STATEMENT

27

28 This bill establishes the “New Jersey Vision Zero Task Force”
29 (task force). The task force is to consist of 21 members as outlined
30 in the bill.

31 The purpose and duties of the task force are to study, examine,
32 and review all aspects of traffic safety with a particular focus on
33 access, equity, and mobility for all road users using the safe system
34 approach and to advise the Governor, the Legislature, and the
35 Department of Transportation regarding policies, programs,
36 research, and priorities to help achieve the goal of eliminating
37 traffic fatalities and serious injuries. The task force is required to
38 take the following steps to achieve its purpose and duties:

39 (1) develop an action plan to help achieve the goal of eliminating
40 traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roadways in the
41 State;

42 (2) identify short-term and long-term data-driven strategies with
43 measurable goals and target dates to reduce traffic fatalities and
44 serious injuries with the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and
45 serious injuries by 2035;

46 (3) promote effective and transparent collection of traffic safety
47 data and dissemination of such data via a publicly accessible data
48 portal;

- 1 (4) encourage the elimination of road hazards by advancing
2 active transportation and mass transit as safe and viable forms of
3 transportation;
- 4 (5) provide recommendations for changes to State, county, and
5 municipal law to achieve the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities
6 and serious injuries by 2035;
- 7 (6) develop an action plan to implement and promote the safe
8 system approach, vision zero strategies, and evidenced-based safety
9 countermeasures to help achieve the goal of eliminating traffic
10 fatalities and severe injuries among all road users;
- 11 (7) create and maintain an interactive Internet website to provide
12 information about the task force;
- 13 (8) serve as an advisor to the Department of Transportation and
14 other State agencies and transportation authorities with regard to
15 roadway planning and transportation infrastructure planning;
- 16 (9) provide advice and assistance to county and municipal
17 governments to develop their own vision zero plans;
- 18 (10) review and provide feedback on an annual basis to the
19 Department of Transportation, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority,
20 and the South Jersey Transportation Authority on their respective
21 capital plans; and
- 22 (11) report annually to the Governor and Legislature on the
23 findings and activities of the task force.