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SENATE, No. 3079

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

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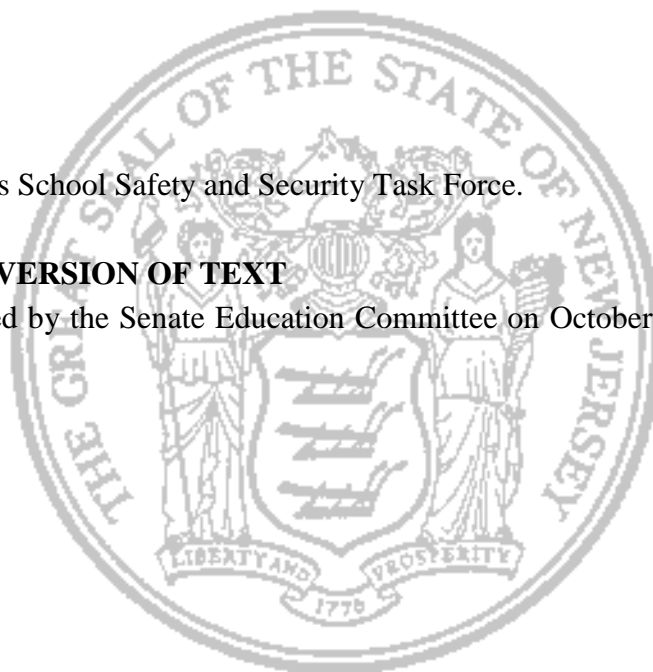
Senators Greenstein, Holzapfel, Pou, Singleton, Assemblymen Simonsen, McClellan, Karabinchak, Assemblywomen Jasey, Murphy, DeFuccio, Lopez and Assemblyman Moen

SYNOPSIS

Establishes School Safety and Security Task Force.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on October 27, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/7/2023)

1 AN ACT establishing the School Safety and Security Task Force.

2

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

5

6 1. a. There is established the School Safety and Security Task
7 Force. The purpose of the task force shall be to study and develop
8 recommendations to improve school safety and security, and to
9 ensure a safe learning environment for students and employees.

10 b. The task force shall consist of ¹~~11~~ 15¹ members as
11 follows:

12 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee;

13 (2) the Director of the Office of Homeland Security, or a
14 designee;

15 (3) the Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Schools
16 Development Authority, or a designee;

17 (4) ¹~~four~~ seven¹ members appointed by the Governor
18 including one each from the New Jersey Association of School
19 Business Officials, the New Jersey Education Association, the New
20 Jersey School Boards Association, ¹the New Jersey Council on
21 Developmental Disabilities, the New Jersey Public Charter Schools
22 Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators,¹
23 and the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; and

24 (5) ¹~~four~~ five¹ members of the public, ¹~~two~~ three¹ of which
25 have demonstrated expertise in the development or implementation
26 of school security standards or technology, one of which is an
27 active or retired law enforcement officer, and one of which is an
28 active or retired mental health professional. ¹~~Two~~ The¹ members
29 of the public pursuant to this subsection shall be appointed by the
30 Governor, ¹~~one shall be appointed by the President of the Senate,~~
31 and one shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General
32 Assembly] upon consideration of the recommendations of the
33 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly¹.

34

35 2. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
36 of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of the
37 task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
38 appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve
39 without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for
40 expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties within
41 the limits of funds made available to the task force for its purposes.

42

43 3. ¹a.¹ The task force shall organize within 30 days after the
44 appointment of its members and shall select a chairperson and a

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted October 27, 2022.

1 vice-chairperson from among its members and a secretary who need
2 not be a member of the task force.

3 ¹b. The presence of five members appointed to the task force
4 shall constitute a quorum to conduct official task force business.
5 Any recommendations of the task force shall be approved by a
6 majority of the members present.¹

7
8 4. Staff and related support services shall be provided to the
9 task force by the Department of Education. The task force shall
10 also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the service
11 of the employees of any State, county, or municipal department,
12 board, bureau, commission or agency as it may require and as may
13 be available to it for its purposes.

14
15 5. a. It shall be the duty of the task force to identify potential
16 breaches of security in the public schools, and make
17 recommendations to improve school safety and security. The issues
18 studied by the task force shall include, but are not limited to:

- 19 (1) placing screening systems at school entrances;
20 (2) stationing school resource officers in each school building;
21 (3) improving response times to emergency situations, including
22 lockdowns, active shooter, and bomb threats;
23 (4) requiring advanced student and visitor identification cards;
24 (5) using biometric, retina, or other advanced recognition
25 systems for authorized entrance into school buildings;
26 (6) the effectiveness of installing panic alarms in school
27 buildings to alert local law enforcement authorities to emergency
28 situations, required under “Alyssa’s Law,” P.L.2019, c.33;
29 (7) scheduling periodic patrols of school buildings and grounds
30 by local law enforcement officers; ¹**[and]**¹
31 (8) hardening the school perimeter and building entryways¹; and
32 (9) considering strategies to ensure the needs of students with
33 disabilities are reflected in all areas of emergency planning and
34 response measures¹.

35 b. The task force shall review and develop recommendations
36 on building security and assessment standards for existing school
37 facilities and new construction, including, but not limited to,
38 standards for:

- 39 (1) architectural design for new construction;
40 (2) assessing and abating security risks in existing school
41 facilities;
42 (3) emergency communication plans;
43 (4) staff training; and
44 (5) addressing elevated risk factors, including proximity to a
45 chemical facility or nuclear power plant.

46 c. In developing its recommendations, the task force shall
47 research effective strategies that have been employed in other
48 states, and refer to and incorporate existing State research, data,

1 recommendations, and standards, including the July 2015 report and
2 recommendations of the New Jersey School Security Task Force.

3 d. The task force is authorized, within the limits of funds
4 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purpose, to
5 commission professional engineering firms and certified
6 information systems professionals in identifying, interviewing,
7 researching, and documenting best security practices.

8

9 6. The task force shall issue a final report of its findings and
10 recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to the
11 Governor, to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
12 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), and to the State Board of Education no later
13 than six months after its organizational meeting.

14

15 7. This act shall take effect immediately and the task force
16 shall expire upon the issuance of the final report.