

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3079

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

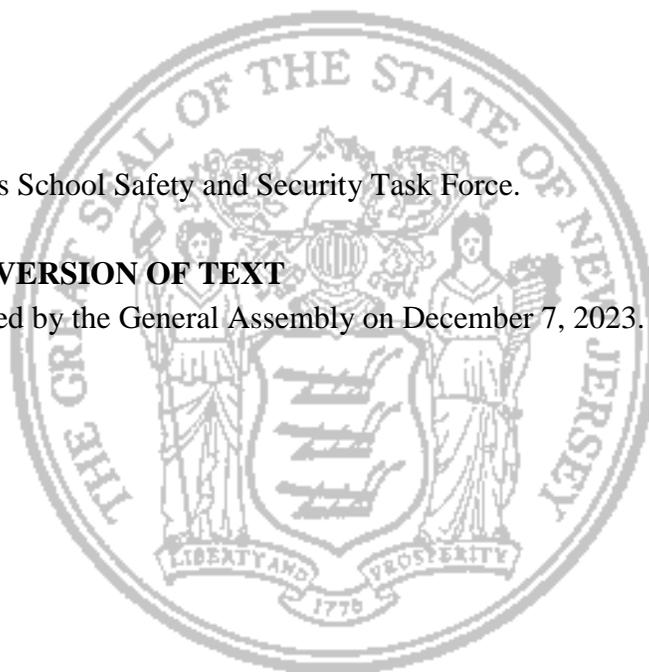
Senators Greenstein, Holzapfel, Pou, Singleton, Assemblymen Simonsen, McClellan, Karabinchak, Assemblywomen Jasey, Murphy, DeFuccio, Lopez and Assemblyman Moen

SYNOPSIS

Establishes School Safety and Security Task Force.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on December 7, 2023.



(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 ensure
9 a safe learning environment for students and employees.

10 b. The task force shall consist of ¹**[11]** ²**[15¹]** 17² 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 designee;

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

16 (4) ¹**[four]** ²**[seven¹]** the Chief School Administrator of a
17 nonpublic school;

18 (5) eight² members appointed by the Governor including one each
19 from the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, the
20 New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey School Boards
21 Association, ¹the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities,
22 the New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association, the New Jersey
23 Association of School Administrators, ¹ ²the New Jersey College and
24 University Public Safety Association, ² and the New Jersey Principals
25 and Supervisors Association; and

26 ²**[(5)]** (6)² ¹**[four]** five¹ members of the public, ¹**[two]** three¹ of
27 ²**[which]** whom² have demonstrated expertise in the development or
28 implementation of school security standards or technology, one of
29 ²**[which]** whom² is an active or retired law enforcement officer, and
30 one of ²**[which]** whom² is an active or retired mental health
31 professional. ¹**[Two]** The¹ members of the public pursuant to this
32 subsection shall be appointed by the Governor, ¹**[one]** shall be
33 appointed by the President of the Senate, and one shall be appointed
34 by the Speaker of the General Assembly] upon consideration of the
35 recommendations of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
36 General Assembly¹.

37

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

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.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted December 7, 2023.

1 3. ¹a.¹ The task force shall organize within 30 days after the
2 appointment of its members and shall select a chairperson and a
3 vice-chairperson from among its members and a secretary who need
4 not be a member of the task force.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 c. In developing its recommendations, the task force shall
2 research effective strategies that have been employed in other
3 states, and refer to and incorporate existing State research, data,
4 recommendations, and standards, including the July 2015 report and
5 recommendations of the New Jersey School Security Task Force.
- 6 d. The task force is authorized, within the limits of funds
7 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purpose, to
8 commission professional engineering firms and certified
9 information systems professionals in identifying, interviewing,
10 researching, and documenting best security practices.
- 11
- 12 6. The task force shall issue a final report of its findings and
13 recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to the
14 Governor, to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
15 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), and to the State Board of Education no later
16 than six months after its organizational meeting.
- 17
- 18 7. This act shall take effect immediately and the task force
19 shall expire upon the issuance of the final report.