

**SENATE, No. 3532**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “New Jersey COVID-19 Long-Term Health Effects Task Force.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the “New Jersey COVID-19 Long-Term  
2 Health Effects Task Force.”

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

6  
7 1. a. There is established the “New Jersey COVID-19 Long-  
8 Term Health Effects Task Force.” The purpose of the task force  
9 shall be to:

10 (1) study the long-term health effects of COVID-19;

11 (2) identify symptoms associated with the long-term health  
12 effects of COVID-19;

13 (3) identify medications and other treatments that combat the  
14 long-term health effects of COVID-19;

15 (4) develop methods of educating the public on the long-term  
16 health effects of COVID-19;

17 (5) identify any adverse, long-term health effects caused by  
18 COVID-19 vaccines; and

19 (6) develop strategies for the Department of Health and county  
20 and local health departments to help health care professionals treat  
21 patients suffering from the long-term health effects of COVID-19.

22 b. The task force shall consist of nine members as follows:

23 (1) one member of the public appointed by the Speaker of the  
24 General Assembly with experience in COVID-19 and health care;

25 (2) one member of the public appointed by the Minority Leader  
26 of the General Assembly with experience in COVID-19 and health  
27 care;

28 (3) one member of the public appointed by the President of the  
29 Senate with experience in COVID-19 and health care;

30 (4) one member of the public appointed by the Minority Leader  
31 of the Senate with experience in COVID-19 and health care;

32 (5) the Commissioner of Health, or a designee, who shall serve  
33 ex officio;

34 (6) two representatives of county or local health departments in  
35 New Jersey appointed by the Governor; and

36 (7) two medical doctors with experience treating patient  
37 suffering from long-term health effects of COVID-19 appointed by  
38 the Governor.

39 c. The members of this task force shall be appointed within 30  
40 days after the date of enactment of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
41 before this Legislature as this bill). The task force shall organize as  
42 soon as practicable after the appointment of a majority of the task  
43 force’s members. The presence of eight members shall constitute a  
44 quorum. The Commissioner of Health shall serve as the  
45 chairperson of the task force.

46 d. The task force shall meet regularly as the task force  
47 determines, or at the call of the chairperson or a majority of the task  
48 force’s membership.

- 1 e. All meetings of the task force shall be open to the public.  
2 Agendas, minutes, documents, and testimony from all meetings  
3 shall be posted on the Department of Health's Internet website.
- 4 f. The members of the task force shall serve without  
5 compensation, but the members may be reimbursed for reasonable  
6 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties, within  
7 the limits of funds made available for this purpose.
- 8 g. Any vacancies in the membership of this task force shall be  
9 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
- 10 h. The Department of Health shall provide stenographic,  
11 clerical, and other administrative assistance, and professional staff  
12 as the task force requires to carry out the task force's work. The  
13 task force shall be entitled to call to the task force's assistance and  
14 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
15 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as the  
16 task force may require and as may be available for the task force's  
17 purposes.
- 18 i. No later than one year after the task force first organizes, it  
19 shall prepare and submit to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2  
20 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, a final report  
21 and policy recommendations. The task force shall expire 30 days  
22 after the submission of the task force's report.

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24 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire 30  
25 days after the submission of the task force's report pursuant to  
26 subsection i. of section 1 of this bill.

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#### STATEMENT

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31 This bill establishes the "New Jersey COVID-19 Long-Term  
32 Health Effects Task Force" (task force).

33 Under the bill, the purpose of the task force is to: (1) study the  
34 long-term health effects of COVID-19; (2) identify symptoms  
35 associated with the long-term health effects of COVID-19; (3)  
36 identify medications and other treatments that can combat the long-  
37 term health effects of COVID-19; (4) develop methods of educating  
38 the public on the long-term health effects of COVID-19; (5)  
39 identify any adverse, long-term health effects caused by COVID-19  
40 vaccines; and (6) develop strategies for the Department of Health  
41 and county and local health departments to help health care  
42 professionals treat patients suffering from the long-term health  
43 effects of COVID-19.

44 The bill provides that the task force is to consist of nine members  
45 as follows: (1) one member of the public appointed by the Speaker  
46 of the General Assembly with experience in COVID-19 and health  
47 care; (2) one member of the public appointed by the Minority  
48 Leader of the General Assembly with experience in COVID-19 and

1 health care; (3) one member of the public appointed by the  
2 President of the Senate with experience in COVID-19 and health  
3 care; (4) one member of the public appointed by the Minority  
4 Leader of the Senate with experience in COVID-19 and health care;  
5 (5) the Commissioner of Health or a designee; (6) two  
6 representatives of local or county health departments in New Jersey  
7 appointed by the Governor; and (7) two medical doctors with  
8 experience treating patient suffering from long-term health effects  
9 of COVID-19 appointed by the Governor.