

ASSEMBLY, No. 4451

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Task Force on Aging in New Jersey in DOH.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the Task Force on Aging in New Jersey and
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. There is established in the Department of Health the Task
8 Force on Aging in New Jersey. The purpose of the task shall be to
9 study the State resources available for older residents of the State
10 and to identify, prioritize, make recommendation on ways to
11 improve the services needed to support an aging population so that
12 individuals may grow old with dignity and independence.

13 b. The task force shall consist of 17 members, including:

14 (1) the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Human
15 Services, the Public Guardian, and the New Jersey Long Term Care
16 Ombudsman, or their designees, who shall serve ex-officio;

17 (2) two public members appointed by the Governor based upon
18 the recommendation of the President of the Senate, including one
19 member who represents an organization that advocates for the aging
20 community and one member who represents an organization or
21 agency that provides programs or services to senior citizens;

22 (3) two public members to be appointed by the Governor based
23 upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly,
24 including one member who represents an organization that
25 advocates for the aging community and one member who represents
26 an organization or agency that provides programs or services to
27 senior citizens; and

28 (4) nine public members appointed by the Governor who shall
29 include: a representative of the New Jersey Association of Area
30 Agencies on Aging; a representative of the New Jersey Advocates
31 for Aging Well; a representative of the AARP; a representative of
32 the New Jersey Elder Rights Coalition; a representative of the
33 Center for Health Aging at Rutgers University; a physician who has
34 been specially trained in caring for elderly persons and has a
35 certificate of added qualifications in geriatrics; an individual who is
36 65 years of age or older who lives in a long-term care facility; an
37 individual who is 65 years of age or older living at home; and a
38 caregiver of an individual who is 65 years of age or older

39 c. The public members of the task force shall serve for a term of
40 three years, except that of the initial appointments, four public
41 members shall serve for one year, five public members shall serve
42 for two years, and five public members shall serve for three years.
43 Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the
44 same manner as the original appointments were made. Members
45 are eligible for reappointment to the task force.

46 d. The Commissioner of Health, or a designee, shall serve as
47 chairperson of the task force. The task force shall meet at the call
48 of the chairperson. The task force shall appoint a secretary who
49 need not be a member of the task force. The task force, in its

1 discretion, may divide its membership into subcommittees in the
2 course of carrying out its duties.

3 e. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
4 but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
5 performance of their duties as members of the task force within the
6 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
7 force for its purposes.

8 f. The Department of Health shall provide such stenographic,
9 clerical, other administrative assistants, and such professional staff
10 as the task force requires to carry out its work.

11 g. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
12 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
13 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
14 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

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16 2. a. The duties of the task force shall be to:

17 (1) review all policies, procedures, programs, and practices
18 relating to the provision of services to the older residents of New
19 Jersey by State, county, and municipal agencies and for community-
20 based organizations;

21 (2) study, analyze, and monitor information and data collected by
22 State agencies and community-based organization relating to the
23 aging processes and the needs of the older residents of New Jersey

24 (3) examine State activities, processes, and strategies that
25 support family caregivers of older adults;

26 (4) evaluate State policies and procedures that support quality of
27 care in long-term care facilities;

28 (5) establish an educational program to inform senior citizens
29 about consumer rights, social isolation and loneliness, elder abuse,
30 elder theft and scams, the availability of affordable, quality housing
31 options, transportation services, and other issues that affect the
32 quality of life of older New Jerseyans; and

33 (6) ensure all State policies relating to aging are inclusive of
34 race, gender, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, and other
35 characteristics that reflect the State's population.

36 b. The task force shall issue a report of its recommendations to
37 the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of
38 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 18 months after the
39 organization of the task force. The task force shall issue reports of
40 any new or updated recommendations on a biennial basis.

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42 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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47 This bill establishes the 17-member Task Force on Aging in New
48 Jersey in the Department of Health. The task force is study the
49 State resources available for older residents of the State and to

1 identify, prioritize, make recommendation on ways to improve the
2 services needed to support an aging population so that individuals
3 may grow old with dignity and independence.

4 The task force is to consist of the following members: the
5 Commissioners of Health and Human Services, the Public
6 Guardian, and the New Jersey Long Term Care Ombudsman, or
7 their designees, who are to serve ex-officio; four public members
8 appointed by the Governor, two to be appointed on recommendation
9 of the Senate President and two to be appointed on recommendation
10 of the Speaker of the General Assembly, who represent
11 organizations that advocate for the aging community or provide
12 programs or services to senior citizens; and nine public members,
13 including, representatives of various organizations that advocate for
14 older adults, a health care provider specializing in geriatric services,
15 a family caregiver, an individual 65 years of age or older who lives
16 in a long-term care facility, and an individual who is 65 years of age
17 or older living at home.

18 The duties of the task force are to: (1) review all policies,
19 procedures, programs, and practices relating to the provision of
20 services to the older residents of New Jersey by State, county, and
21 municipal agencies and for community-based organizations; (2)
22 study, analyze, and monitor information and data collected by State
23 agencies and community-based organization relating to the aging
24 processes and the needs of the older residents of New Jersey; (3)
25 examine State activities, processes, and strategies that support
26 family caregivers of older adults; (4) evaluate State policies and
27 procedures that support quality of care in long-term care facilities;
28 (5) establish an educational program to inform senior citizens about
29 consumer rights, social isolation and loneliness, elder abuse, elder
30 theft and scams, the availability of affordable, quality housing
31 options, transportation services, and other issues that affect the
32 quality of life of older New Jerseyans; and (6) ensure all State
33 policies relating to aging are inclusive of race, gender, ethnicity,
34 culture, sexual orientation, and other characteristics that reflect the
35 State's population.

36 Under the bill's provisions, the task force is also to issue a report
37 of its recommendations to the Governor and Legislature no later
38 than 18 months after the organization of the task force and
39 biannually, with any new or updated recommendations.