

SENATE, No. 3321

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator VINCENT J. POLISTINA

District 2 (Atlantic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the “School District Shared Services Task Force.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT establishing the “School District Shared Services Task
2 Force” to study the utilization of shared services among school
3 districts and to recommend measures for improving shared
4 services for school districts.

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6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

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9 1. The Legislature finds and declares:

10 a. With the inevitability of duplication of services among
11 school districts, shared services promote cost efficiency and
12 programming equity; and

13 b. Shared services allows school districts to offer choice to
14 students and parents, which in many districts, would not otherwise
15 be available due to fiscal restraints; and

16 c. Despite the State allocating funds to assist municipalities
17 looking to promote and support local shared services and school
18 consolidation studies, there exists limited information regarding
19 how the hundreds of school districts across the State are working
20 with other school districts, municipalities, and counties to provide
21 services to students and parents; and

22 d. It is therefore necessary, appropriate, and in the public
23 interest for the State of New Jersey to establish a task force that
24 studies how school districts are utilizing shared services and
25 recommends to the Legislature measures for improving the
26 efficiency and delivery of shared services for school districts.

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28 2. a. There is established the “School District Shared Services
29 Task Force.” The purpose of the task force is to study how school
30 districts are utilizing shared services and to develop
31 recommendations that improve the efficiency and delivery of shared
32 services for school districts.

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

34 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, who shall
35 serve ex officio;

36 (2) the Commissioner of Community Affairs, or a designee, who
37 shall serve ex officio;

38 (3) one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one
39 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, one
40 member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one
41 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the General
42 Assembly, all of whom shall be members of the public with
43 demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the task
44 force; and

45 (4) three public members, who shall be appointed by the
46 Governor no later than the 30th day after the effective date of this
47 act, as follows: one member upon the recommendation of the New
48 Jersey League of Municipalities, one member upon the

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1 recommendation of the New Jersey Association of Counties, and
2 one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey School
3 Boards Association.

4 c. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled
5 in the same manner as the original appointments were made.
6 Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but
7 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the
8 performance of their duties as members of the task force.

9 d. The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
10 designee, shall serve as chairperson of the task force. The task
11 force shall organize as soon as practicable following the
12 appointment of its members and shall select a vice-chairperson from
13 among its members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who
14 need not be a member of the task force.

15 e. The Department of Education shall provide such
16 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such
17 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.
18 The task force shall also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
19 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
20 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
21 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

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23 3. It shall be the duty of the task force to study how school
24 districts are utilizing shared services and to develop
25 recommendations that improve the efficiency and delivery of shared
26 services for school districts. The task force shall study and consider
27 issues including, but not limited to, the following:

28 a. the current shared services arrangements school districts
29 have with other school districts, municipalities, and counties;

30 b. the implementation challenges that school districts currently
31 face in attempting to expand the scope and capacity of their shared
32 services;

33 c. the funding necessary for school districts to use shared
34 services more often and more efficiently;

35 d. the impact, if any, with improving shared services among
36 school districts and potential consolidation of school districts;

37 e. recommendations for school districts to adopt and
38 implement to improve the efficiency and delivery of their shared
39 services.

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41 4. a. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor,
42 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
43 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one year after the task force organizes.
44 The report shall contain the task force's findings and
45 recommendations for school districts on improving the efficiency
46 and delivery of their shared services.

47 b. The task force shall expire upon the submission of its final
48 report.

1 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill establishes the “School District Shared Services Task
7 Force” to study how school districts are utilizing shared services
8 and to develop recommendations that improve upon the efficiency
9 and delivery of shared services for school districts. The task force
10 will include the following 9 members: the Commissioner of
11 Education; the Commissioner of Community Affairs; one public
12 member appointed by the President of the Senate; one public
13 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one public
14 member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; one
15 public member appointed by the Minority Leader of the General
16 Assembly; and three members appointed by the Governor including
17 one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey League of
18 Municipalities, one member upon the recommendation of the New
19 Jersey Association of Counties, and one member upon the
20 recommendation of the New Jersey School Boards Association.

21 The task force will study and consider issues including, but not
22 limited to:

23 – the current shared services arrangements school districts
24 have with other school districts, municipalities, and
25 counties;

26 – the implementation challenges that school districts currently
27 face in attempting to expand the scope and capacity of their
28 shared services;

29 – the funding necessary for school districts to use shared
30 services more often and more efficiently;

31 – the impact, if any, with improving shared services among
32 school districts and potential consolidation of school
33 districts;

34 – recommendations for school districts to adopt and
35 implement to improve the efficiency and delivery of their
36 shared services.

37 The task force is required to issue a final report to the Governor
38 and the Legislature within one year of its organization, which
39 contains the task force’s findings and recommendations regarding
40 school districts improving the efficiency and delivery of their
41 shared services. The task force would expire upon the submission
42 of this report.