

**SENATE, No. 3459**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JUNE 17, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator NELLIE POU**

**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

1 need not be a member of the task force. The task force, in its  
2 discretion, may divide its membership into subcommittees in the  
3 course of carrying out its duties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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43 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill establishes the 17-member Task Force on Aging in New Jersey in the Department of Health. The task force is study the State resources available for older residents of the State and to identify, prioritize, make recommendation on ways to improve the services needed to support an aging population so that individuals may grow old with dignity and independence.

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

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

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