

SENATE, No. 4723

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Government Restructuring and Modernization Commission.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Government Restructuring and
2 Modernization Commission.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Government
8 Restructuring and Modernization Commission Act.”

9
10 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

11 a. The State of New Jersey faces a significant structural budget
12 deficit that demands a more efficient and modern approach to
13 governance.

14 b. The executive branch operates across numerous departments
15 and agencies that often lack coordination and legislative oversight.

16 c. Redundant or outdated functions persist across departments,
17 increasing inefficiencies and costs to taxpayers.

18 d. A collaborative effort involving the executive, legislative, and
19 departmental leadership is necessary to streamline government
20 operations while preserving the integrity of the State workforce.

21 e. Any modernization effort must prioritize the institutional
22 knowledge of existing staff and avoid forced layoffs, utilizing
23 attrition and retirements instead.

24
25 3. a. There is established the New Jersey Government
26 Restructuring and Modernization Commission. The commission
27 shall consist of 15 members as follows:

28 (1) the Lieutenant Governor, or a designee, who shall serve as
29 chair of the commission;

30 (2) three members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate
31 President, no more than two of whom shall be members of the same
32 political party;

33 (3) three members of the General Assembly, appointed by the
34 Speaker of the General Assembly, no more than two of whom shall
35 be members of the same political party;

36 (4) three career public employees, with a minimum of 10 years
37 of service, appointed jointly by the Governor, Senate President, and
38 Speaker of the General Assembly; and

39 (5) five public members with expertise in public administration,
40 finance, or government reform, including one appointed by the
41 Governor, and one each appointed by the Governor upon the
42 recommendation of the Senate President, the Senate Minority
43 Leader, the Speaker of the General Assembly, and the Minority
44 Leader of the General Assembly.

45 b. The commission shall hold its initial organizational meeting
46 as soon as practicable, but no later than 30 days following the
47 appointment of its members. Any vacancy in the membership of
48 the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original

1 appointment. Legislators shall serve during the two-year legislative
2 term in which the appointment is made and shall be eligible for
3 reappointment to the commission. Each public member of the
4 commission shall serve for a term of five years.

5 c. Members of the commission shall serve without
6 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all necessary expenses
7 incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits of
8 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the commission
9 for its purposes.

10 d. The Department of State shall provide staff and related
11 support services as may be needed by the commission to carry out
12 its responsibilities. The commission shall also be entitled to call to
13 its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any
14 other State department, office, division, or agency to accomplish its
15 duties.

16 e. A majority of all the authorized members of the commission
17 shall constitute a quorum. The commission shall meet once every
18 six months and at such other times as the chair of the commission
19 may determine.

20

21 4. a. The commission shall:

22 (1) conduct a comprehensive review of all executive branch
23 departments and agencies to identify:

- 24 (a) overlapping or redundant functions;
25 (b) inefficiencies in service delivery or reporting structures;
26 (c) opportunities for consolidation or shared services; and
27 (d) opportunities to enhance legislative oversight.

28 (2) solicit input from frontline public employees and department
29 leadership;

30 (3) develop a modernization blueprint with legislative and
31 administrative recommendations; and

32 (4) submit an annual report to the Governor and to the
33 Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
34 19.1), detailing its findings and recommendations by March 1 of
35 each year, beginning the calendar year after the enactment of
36 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

37 b. The commission shall abide by the following guiding
38 principles:

39 (1) reforms shall utilize natural attrition, retirements, and
40 reallocation to implement changes and cannot mandate layoffs or
41 workforce reductions;

42 (2) proposals shall be data-driven, practical, and preserve
43 critical public services; and

44 (3) the commission shall evaluate cost savings, service quality,
45 and accountability.

46 c. The commission may hold hearings and public meetings,
47 request data and information from any department or agency, and

1 hire staff or consultants as necessary within the limits of funds
2 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

3 d. All commission meetings shall be subject to the “Senator
4 Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act,” P.L.1975, c.231
5 (C.10:4-6 et seq.).

6 e. The commission shall create an online portal on the New
7 Jersey Department of State’s website for comment and feedback on
8 potential reforms.

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10 5. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire five
11 years after the date of enactment, unless reauthorized by the
12 Legislature.

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15 STATEMENT

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17 This bill establishes the New Jersey Government Restructuring
18 and Modernization Commission, a bipartisan and collaborative
19 body tasked with reviewing the structure and operations of New
20 Jersey’s executive branch departments and agencies to recommend
21 improvements in efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

22 New Jersey faces a structural budget deficit, and this legislation
23 recognizes that part of the solution needs to include a thorough
24 review of how the State government operates. Unlike similar
25 efforts in the past, this commission is designed to take a strategic
26 and long-term approach, grounded in institutional knowledge, inter-
27 branch collaboration, and operational reality.

28 The 15-member commission will include representatives from
29 the executive branch, the Legislature, frontline public employees
30 with a decade or more of State service, and public members with
31 expertise in governance or fiscal policy. The goal is to bring
32 together those who understand government from the inside with
33 those who can challenge outdated structures and propose modern
34 solutions.

35 Importantly, this bill does not authorize layoffs or workforce
36 reductions. Any structural or organizational reforms proposed must
37 rely on natural attrition, retirements, and reallocation of personnel.
38 This ensures that the process is both fiscally responsible and
39 humane, avoiding unintended consequences that might disrupt vital
40 public services or harm career public servants.

41 The commission will deliver a modernization blueprint, and
42 submit a report annually to the Governor and Legislature,
43 identifying redundant programs, recommending agency
44 consolidations, and proposing improvements to inter-agency
45 coordination and oversight. All meetings will be public and
46 transparent, with input from employees and the public encouraged
47 through a designated online portal. The bill requires staff and

1 related support services to be provided to the commission by the
2 New Jersey Department of State.

3 By promoting collaboration between the executive and
4 legislative branches and empowering experienced public employees
5 to have a seat at the table, this bill represents a responsible,
6 inclusive, and forward-thinking path to reimagining how New
7 Jersey government works, and for whom it works.