

SENATE, No. 226

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator KEVIN J. O'TOOLE

District 40 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Girgenti

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Task Force to study the benefits of student recess and make recommendations on advisability of mandatory recess in school districts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/11/2008)

1 AN ACT establishing a Task Force on Public School Student
2 Recess.

3

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

6

7 1. There is established a Task Force on Public School Student
8 Recess to consist of the following 13 members: the Commissioner
9 of Education, or a designee, who shall serve ex officio; two
10 members of the General Assembly, one member to be appointed by
11 the Speaker of the General Assembly and one member to be
12 appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly; two
13 members of the Senate, one member to be appointed by the
14 President of the Senate and one member to be appointed by the
15 Minority Leader of the Senate; and five members to be appointed
16 by the Governor including one each from the American Academy of
17 Pediatrics – New Jersey Chapter, the New Jersey School Boards
18 Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
19 Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators,
20 and the New Jersey Education Association; and three public
21 members, one to be appointed by the Governor, one to be appointed
22 by the President of the Senate, and one to be appointed by the
23 Speaker of the General Assembly.

24

25 2. All appointments to the task force shall be made within 30
26 days after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the
27 membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as
28 the original appointments were made. Members of the task force
29 shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for
30 necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties
31 as members of the task force.

32

33 3. The task force shall organize as soon as may be practicable
34 after the appointment of its members and shall choose a chairperson
35 from among its members and shall appoint a secretary who need not
36 be a member of the task force. For purposes of convening a task
37 force meeting, a quorum shall consist of 5 members; for purposes of
38 adopting task force recommendations, a majority of the total task
39 force membership shall be required.

40

41 4. The Department of Education shall provide such
42 stenographic, clerical and other administrative assistants, and such
43 professional staff, as the task force requires to carry out its work.
44 The task force shall also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
45 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or
46 municipal department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it
47 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

1 5. It shall be the duty of the task force to study the social and
2 health benefits of student recess and develop recommendations on
3 the advisability of making student recess mandatory in all school
4 districts. The task force shall:

5 a. examine current data, research, programs, and initiatives
6 related to the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual benefits
7 achieved by young students as a result of participation in school
8 recess;

9 b. identify effective strategies for schools that promote lifelong
10 health and prepare children and youth for physically active
11 lifestyles;

12 c. examine the extent to which recess is provided to students in
13 school districts across the State of New Jersey; and,

14 d. develop recommendations on the advisability of mandating
15 daily recess in all school districts.

16

17 6. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor, and
18 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1991, c.164
19 (C.52:14-19.1), containing its findings and recommendations,
20 including any recommendations for legislation that it deems
21 appropriate, no later than nine months after the task force organizes.

22

23 7. This act shall take effect immediately and the task force
24 shall expire on the 30th day after the issuance of its final report.

25

26

27

STATEMENT

28

29 This bill establishes the Task Force on Public School Student
30 Recess. The task force is to consist of 13 members including: the
31 Commissioner of Education, or a designee; two members of the
32 General Assembly, one appointed by the Speaker of the General
33 Assembly and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the General
34 Assembly; two members of the Senate, one appointed by the
35 President of the Senate and one appointed by the Minority Leader
36 of the Senate; and five members appointed by the Governor,
37 including one each from the American Academy of Pediatrics –
38 New Jersey Chapter, the New Jersey School Boards Association,
39 the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, the New
40 Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey
41 Education Association; and three public members, one to be
42 appointed by the Governor, one by the President of the Senate, and
43 one by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

44 It will be the duty of the task force to: examine current data,
45 research, programs, and initiatives related to the physical, social,
46 emotional, and intellectual benefits achieved by young students as a
47 result of participation in school recess; identify effective strategies

S226 SINGER, O'TOOLE

4

1 for schools that promote lifelong health and prepare children and
2 youth for physically active lifestyles; examine the extent to which
3 recess is provided to students in school districts across the State of
4 New Jersey; and develop recommendations on the advisability of
5 mandating daily recess in all school districts.

6 The task force is directed to issue a report to the Governor and
7 the Legislature no later than nine months after the task force
8 organizes.