

[First Reprint]  
**SENATE, No. 157**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**217th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

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**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes "New Jersey Task Force on Abuse of Persons who are Elderly or Disabled."

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on February 29, 2016, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/8/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of  
2 persons who are elderly or disabled.

3

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

6

7 1. a. There is established the “New Jersey Task Force on Abuse  
8 <sup>1</sup>**[Against the Elderly and]** of Persons who are Elderly or<sup>1</sup> Disabled.”  
9 The task force shall: (1) evaluate current policies that are designed to  
10 protect older adults and persons with disabilities from instances of  
11 abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation; (2) identify any existing  
12 circumstances that allow for the inadequate protection of older adults  
13 and persons with disabilities against instances of abuse, neglect, and  
14 financial exploitation; and (3) develop recommendations for  
15 legislation, policies, and strategies that would provide a more effective  
16 and efficient means by which to protect older adults and persons with  
17 disabilities from instances of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.

18 b. The task force shall consist of 11 members as follows: the  
19 Commissioners of Health and Human Services, the Ombudsman for  
20 the Institutionalized Elderly, and the President of the New Jersey State  
21 Municipal Prosecutors’ Association, or their designees, who shall  
22 serve ex officio; the State Director of the AARP; a representative from  
23 Adult Protective Services in the Division of Aging Services in the  
24 Department of Human Services; and five public members having  
25 relevant knowledge of, or experience in, matters related to the abuse,  
26 neglect, or financial exploitation of older adults or persons with  
27 disabilities. With respect to the task force’s public members, three  
28 shall be appointed by the Governor, one shall be appointed by the  
29 Senate President, and one shall be appointed by the Speaker of the  
30 General Assembly. Vacancies in the membership of the task force  
31 shall be filled in the same manner provided for the original  
32 appointments.

33 c. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but not  
34 more than 120 days after the date of enactment of this act. The task  
35 force may meet and hold hearings at such places and times as it shall  
36 designate.

37 d. The members of the task force shall serve without  
38 compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other necessary  
39 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits  
40 of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for  
41 its purposes.

42 e. The Department of Human Services shall provide professional  
43 and clerical staff to the task force as may be necessary for the task  
44 force’s purposes. The task force shall also be entitled to call upon the

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SHH committee amendments adopted February 29, 2016.

1 services of any State, county, or municipal department, board,  
2 commission, or agency, as may be available to it for its purposes.

3 f. In executing its duties under this act, the task force shall  
4 consult with associations, organizations, and individuals who are  
5 knowledgeable about the abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of  
6 older adults and persons with disabilities.

7 g. The task force may solicit and receive grants and other funds  
8 that are made available for the task force's purposes by any  
9 governmental, public, private, not-for-profit, or for-profit agency,  
10 including funds that are made available under any federal or State law,  
11 regulation, or program.

12 h. Within 12 months after the task force's organizational meeting,  
13 which is held in accordance with the timeframe specified by  
14 subsection c. of this section, the task force shall submit a written report  
15 to the Governor, and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
16 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature. The report shall contain the task  
17 force's findings, as well as its recommendations for legislative and  
18 other action that may be necessary to address and prevent the abuse,  
19 neglect, and financial exploitation of older adults and persons with  
20 disabilities. The task force shall dissolve 30 days after it submits the  
21 report required by this subsection.

22  
23 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the  
24 30th day after the task force submits its written report pursuant to  
25 subsection i. of section 1 of this act.