AN ACT establishing the "New Jersey Veterans' Hospital Task Force."

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

1. There is established the "New Jersey Veterans' Hospital Task Force." The purpose of the task force shall be to study and evaluate, and develop recommendations relating to, the construction and operation of a veterans' health care facility in southern New Jersey.

2. a. The task force shall be comprised of members as follows:

   (1) the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, or their designees, who shall serve ex officio;
   (2) two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, who shall be members of different political parties; and two members of the General Assembly to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, who shall be members of different political parties;
   (3) public members, to be appointed as follows:
   (a) two members appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, who shall be veterans and active participants in the business community in southern New Jersey;
   (b) members appointed by the Governor, who shall include veterans from each of the following counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem; and
   (c) two members appointed by the Governor who shall be veterans and have medical degrees or backgrounds subject matter experts from the New Jersey Hospital Association and veterans healthcare services from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

b. The legislative and public members of the task force shall be

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:
Senate SMV committee amendments adopted May 27, 2010.
Assembly AMV committee amendments adopted September 16, 2010.
appointed no later than the 60th day after the effective date of this
act. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in
the same manner provided for the original appointments.

c. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable
following the appointment of its members and shall elect a
chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members of the
task force. The task force shall appoint a secretary who need not be
a member of the task force.

d. The public members shall serve without compensation, but
shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available
to the task force.

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

f. The task force may meet and hold hearings at the places it
designates during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature.

g. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the
Department of Health and Senior Services shall provide staff
support to the task force.

3. It shall be the duty of the task force to:

a. estimate the capital, operational and administrative expenses
associated with establishing a new veterans' health care facility in
southern New Jersey, or contracting with an existing health care
facility to provide medical services to veterans;

b. obtain and review statistical data on the number of veterans
residing in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland,
Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem counties and the number of
veterans receiving medical services at hospitals within those
counties in the past five years in order to determine a central
location for a veterans' health care facility;

c. determine the size and staffing levels necessary for a
veterans' health care facility to provide a full range of primary care
and medical and surgical subspeciality care to eligible veterans;

d. review various methods of financing a veterans' health care
facility through public, private and public-private partnership
financing systems; and

e. investigate opportunities for the State to enter into
collaborative agreements with the federal government to ensure the
most efficient use of funds and resources related to the operation of
a veterans' health care facility.

4. The task force shall report to the Governor and the
Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12 months after its initial meeting, on its
findings and recommendations regarding strategies for the
construction and operation of a veterans' health care facility in southern New Jersey.

5. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon the issuance of the task force report.

Establishes "New Jersey Veterans' Hospital Task Force."