

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1189

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 21, 2010

The Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate, No. 1189.

This bill establishes the "New Jersey Veterans' Hospital Task Force."

The purpose of the task force is to study and evaluate, and make recommendations related to the construction and operation of a veterans' health care facility in southern New Jersey.

The task force is to be comprised of 18 members as follows:

(1) the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services;

(2) two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

(3) twelve public members, to be appointed as follows:

-- two members appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, who are veterans and active participants in the business community in southern New Jersey;

-- eight members appointed by the Governor, to include a veteran from each of the following counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean and Salem; and

-- two members appointed by the Governor who are veterans and have medical degrees or backgrounds.

It will be the duty of the task force to:

-- 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;

-- 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;

- 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 subspecialty care to eligible veterans;

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

- 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.

The task force is to report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than 12 months after its initial meeting.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to increase the task force membership to 18, increased the number of public members to twelve and increased the number of persons the Governor appoints to eight by adding a member from Ocean County.