

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3583**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**215th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 11, 2013

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman GILBERT "WHIP" L. WILSON**  
**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Creates task force to explore areas to improve school safety.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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2

1 AN ACT establishing a School Security Task Force.

2

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

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6 1. There is established a School Security Task Force. The  
7 purpose of the task force shall be to study and develop  
8 recommendations to improve school security and safety, and to  
9 ensure a safe learning environment for students and school  
10 employees.

11

12 2. The task force shall consist of the following 15 members:

13 a. the Commissioner of Education, the Director of the Office of  
14 Homeland Security and Preparedness, and the Chief Executive  
15 Officer of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority, or their  
16 designees;

17 b. 12 members who shall be appointed no later than the 30th  
18 day after the effective date of this act, as follows:

19 (1) four members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:  
20 one member who is a representative of the New Jersey Association  
21 of School Business Officials, one member who is a representative  
22 of the New Jersey Education Association, one member who is a  
23 representative of the New Jersey School Boards Association, and  
24 one member who is a representative of the New Jersey Principals  
25 and Supervisors Association;

26 (2) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of  
27 the Senate, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political  
28 party;

29 (3) two members of the General Assembly, appointed by the  
30 Speaker of the General Assembly, no more than one of whom shall  
31 be of the same political party; and

32 (4) four members of the public, two selected by the Governor,  
33 one selected by the President of the Senate, and one selected by the  
34 Speaker of the General Assembly, who have demonstrated expertise  
35 in the development or implementation of school security standards  
36 or technology.

37

38 3. A legislator appointed to the task force shall serve during the  
39 two-year legislative term in which the appointment is made.  
40 Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the  
41 same manner as the original appointments were made. Members of  
42 the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be  
43 reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance  
44 of their duties as members of the task force within the limits of  
45 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for  
46 its purposes.

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1       4. The task force shall organize as soon as may be practicable  
2 after the appointment of its members, but no later than 60 days  
3 following the effective date of this act. The task force shall choose  
4 a chairperson from among its members, and shall appoint a  
5 secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

6  
7       5. The Department of Education shall provide such  
8 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such  
9 professional staff, as the task force requires to carry out its work.  
10 The task force shall also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail  
11 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
12 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it  
13 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

14  
15       6. a. The task force shall identify physical and cyber  
16 vulnerabilities and potential breaches of security in the public  
17 schools, and make recommendations to improve school safety and  
18 security. The issues studied by the task force shall include, but are  
19 not limited to:

- 20       (1) placing screening systems at school entrances;  
21       (2) stationing police officers in each school building;  
22       (3) improving response times to emergency situations including  
23 lockdowns, active shooter, and bomb threats;  
24       (4) requiring advanced student and visitor identification cards;  
25       (5) using biometric, retina, or other advanced recognition  
26 systems for authorized entrance into school buildings;  
27       (6) installing panic alarms in school buildings to alert local law  
28 enforcement authorities to emergency situations;  
29       (7) securing computer networks to prevent cyber attacks;  
30       (8) scheduling periodic patrols of school buildings and grounds  
31 by local law enforcement officers; and  
32       (9) hardening the school perimeter and building entryways.

33       b. The task force shall review and develop recommendations  
34 on building security and assessment standards for existing school  
35 facilities and new construction including, but not limited to,  
36 standards for: architectural design for new construction, assessing  
37 and abating security risks in existing school facilities, emergency  
38 communication plans, staff training, and addressing elevated risk  
39 factors including proximity to a chemical facility or nuclear power  
40 plant.

41       c. In developing its recommendations, the task force shall:  
42 research effective strategies that have been employed in other  
43 states; refer to and incorporate existing State research, data,  
44 recommendations, and standards, including the School Safety and  
45 Security Plans Minimum Requirements set forth by the Department  
46 of Education and the September 2007 Final Report of the New  
47 Jersey K-12 School Security Task Force; and solicit public input.

1 d. The task force is authorized, within the limits of funds  
2 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purpose, to  
3 commission professional engineering firms and certified  
4 information systems professionals in identifying, interviewing,  
5 researching, and documenting security best practices.

6  
7 7. The task force shall issue a final report within six months  
8 after its organizational meeting to the Governor, the State Board of  
9 Education, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,  
10 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), containing its findings and recommendations,  
11 including any recommendations for legislation or regulations that it  
12 deems appropriate.

13  
14 8. This act shall take effect immediately and the task force  
15 shall expire upon the issuance of the task force final report.

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18 STATEMENT

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20 This bill establishes a 15-member School Security Task Force to  
21 study and develop recommendations to improve school security and  
22 safety, and ensure a safe learning environment for students and  
23 school employees. The task force will consist of: the Commissioner  
24 of Education, the Director of the Office of Homeland Security and  
25 Preparedness, and the Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey  
26 Schools Development Authority; four members of the Legislature;  
27 four members appointed by the Governor, who will include a  
28 representative of the New Jersey Association of School Business  
29 Officials, a representative of the New Jersey Education Association,  
30 a representative of the New Jersey School Boards Association, and  
31 a representative of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors  
32 Association; and four members of the public, two appointed by the  
33 Governor, one appointed by the President of the Senate, and one  
34 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, who have  
35 demonstrated expertise in the development or implementation of  
36 school security standards or technology.

37 The task force will identify physical and cyber vulnerabilities  
38 and potential breaches of security in the public schools, and make  
39 appropriate recommendations to improve school security. The task  
40 force will study issues including, but not limited to:

- 41 - placing screening systems at school entrances;
- 42 - stationing police officers in each school building;
- 43 - improving response times to emergency situations including  
44 lockdowns, active shooter, and bomb threats;
- 45 - requiring advanced student and visitor identification cards;
- 46 - using biometric, retina, or other advanced recognition  
47 systems for authorized entrance into school buildings;

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- 1       - installing panic alarms in school buildings to alert local law  
2 enforcement authorities to emergency situations;  
3       - securing computer networks to prevent cyber attacks;  
4       - scheduling periodic patrols of school buildings and grounds  
5 by local law enforcement officers; and  
6       - hardening the school perimeter and building entryways.  
7 The task force will also examine building security and assessment  
8 standards for existing school facilities and new construction.  
9       Within six months after its organizational meeting, the task force  
10 will issue a final report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the  
11 State Board of Education, which contains its findings and  
12 recommendations, including any recommendations for legislation or  
13 regulations that it deems appropriate.