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ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, Nos. 3583 and 1613

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 14, 2013

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Gill, Allen, Beck, Gordon, Greenstein, Sacco, Stack and Assemblyman
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SYNOPSIS

Establishes School Security Task Force.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on May 9,
2013, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/21/2013)

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:

5

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 ²[15] 11²
13 members:

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

18 b. ²[12] Eight² members who shall be appointed no later than
19 the 30th day after the effective date of this act, as follows:

20 (1) four members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:
21 one member ¹[who is a representative] upon the recommendation¹
22 of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, one
23 member ¹[who is a representative] upon the recommendation¹ of
24 the New Jersey Education Association, one member ¹[who is a
25 representative] upon the recommendation¹ of the New Jersey
26 School Boards Association, and one member ¹[who is a
27 representative] upon the recommendation¹ of the New Jersey
28 Principals and Supervisors Association; ²and²

29 (2) ²[two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of
30 the Senate, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political
31 party;

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

35 (4)]² four members of the public, two selected by the Governor
36 who have demonstrated expertise in the development or
37 implementation of school security standards or technology², one
38 selected by the President of the Senate, and one selected by the
39 Speaker of the General Assembly²[, who have demonstrated
40 expertise in the development or implementation of school security
41 standards or technology]².

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:

¹ Assembly floor amendments adopted February 14, 2013.

² Senate SLP committee amendments adopted May 9, 2013.

1 3. ²[A legislator appointed to the task force shall serve during
2 the two-year legislative term in which the appointment is made.]²
3 Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the
4 same manner as the original appointments were made. Members of
5 the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be
6 reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance
7 of their duties as members of the task force within the limits of
8 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for
9 its purposes.

10
11 4. The task force shall organize as soon as may be practicable
12 after the appointment of its members, but no later than 60 days
13 following the effective date of this act. The task force shall choose
14 a chairperson from among its members, and shall appoint a
15 secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

16
17 5. The Department of Education shall provide such
18 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such
19 professional staff, as the task force requires to carry out its work.
20 The task force also shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
21 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
22 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
23 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

24
25 6. a. The task force shall identify physical and cyber
26 vulnerabilities and potential breaches of security in the public
27 schools, and make recommendations to improve school safety and
28 security. The issues studied by the task force shall include, but are
29 not limited to:

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

43 b. The task force shall review and develop recommendations
44 on building security and assessment standards for existing school
45 facilities and new construction, including, but not limited to,
46 standards for:

- 47 (1) architectural design for new construction;

- 1 (2) assessing and abating security risks in existing school
2 facilities;
- 3 (3) emergency communication plans;
- 4 (4) staff training; and
- 5 (5) addressing elevated risk factors, including proximity to a
6 chemical facility or nuclear power plant.
- 7 c. In developing its recommendations, the task force shall:
8 research effective strategies that have been employed in other
9 states; refer to and incorporate existing State research, data,
10 recommendations, and standards, including the School Safety and
11 Security Plans Minimum Requirements set forth by the Department
12 of Education and the September 2007 Final Report of the New
13 Jersey K-12 School Security Task Force; and solicit public input.
- 14 d. The task force is authorized, within the limits of funds
15 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purpose, to
16 commission professional engineering firms and certified
17 information systems professionals in identifying, interviewing,
18 researching, and documenting security best practices.
- 19
- 20 7. The task force shall issue a final report within six months
21 after its organizational meeting to the Governor, the State Board of
22 Education, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
23 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), containing its findings and recommendations,
24 including any recommendations for legislation or regulations that it
25 deems appropriate.
- 26
- 27 8. This act shall take effect immediately and the task force
28 shall expire upon the issuance of the task force final report.