

[Third Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4705

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 29, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman PEDRO MEJIA

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Kennedy, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle, Assemblyman DeAngelo, Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblyman Verrelli, Assemblywoman Quijano, Assemblyman Conaway, Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Coughlin, Assemblywomen Mosquera, Lopez, Senators Greenstein, Madden, Addiego, Cunningham, Pou and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Food Waste Task Force to make recommendations concerning food waste in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on January 31, 2019, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2019)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Food Waste Task Force.

2

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

5

6 1. a. There is established in the Department of Human Services
7 the New Jersey Food Waste Task Force, which shall be responsible for
8 identifying and examining ~~and making recommendations for~~
9 legislative or executive action with regard to reducing food waste in
10 this State, including, but not limited to ~~the factors that lead to food~~
11 waste in the State, and identifying strategies, policies, and legislative
12 and executive actions that may be used to¹:

13 (1) ~~preventing~~ prevent¹ food waste;

14 (2) ~~increasing~~ increase¹ food donations;

15 (3) ~~providing~~ provide¹ consumers with education on food
16 storage;

17 (4) ~~lowering~~ lower¹ unreasonably high cosmetic standards for
18 fruit and vegetables;

19 (5) ~~ceasing to reject~~ cease or significantly reduce the rejection
20 of¹ even marginally imperfect-looking food;

21 (6) ~~building~~ build¹ Statewide systems to distribute surplus
22 edible food to charities;

23 (7) ~~eliminating~~ eliminate¹ unnecessary State statutes or
24 regulations that contribute to food waste; and

25 (8) ~~modifying~~ modify¹ “best by” food labels¹, consistent with
26 uniform national standards,¹ to inform consumers ³of³ the latest
27 possible date food can be safely consumed.

28 The work undertaken by the task force shall supplement and be
29 consistent with existing efforts and commitments to reduce food waste,
30 including food donation efforts, composting efforts, date labeling
31 efforts, and effective inventory management practices, which have
32 been, or are being, undertaken at the national level pursuant to a
33 uniform, nationwide model.¹

34 b. The task force shall consist of ~~twelve~~ ²~~fourteen~~² 14³
35 members ~~to be appointed as follows: one representative from the~~
36 ~~Department~~ ³~~Four~~ ²~~Six~~² members, or their designees, shall
37 serve ex officio as follows: ³ including³ the Commissioner¹ of
38 Human Services, ²the Secretary of Agriculture, ³and³ the
39 Commissioner of Environmental Protection,² ³the President of the¹
40 Community Food Bank of New Jersey, ¹the Director of¹ Hunger Free
41 New Jersey, ¹and the President of the¹ New Jersey Food Council ¹,
42 Eight ³ or their designees, who shall serve ex officio; and 11³ public

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:

¹Assembly AHU committee amendments adopted December 3, 2018.

²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted December 10, 2018.

³Senate SHH committee amendments adopted January 31, 2019.

1 members³, who³ shall be appointed as follows: (1) one representative
2 each from¹ four major food retailers, ¹two of whom shall be appointed
3 by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by the President of
4 the Senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
5 General Assembly;¹ ³(2) three public members appointed by the
6 Governor, with one member to be appointed upon recommendation by
7 the President of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, one
8 member to be appointed upon recommendation by the Director of
9 Hunger Free New Jersey, and one member to be appointed upon
10 recommendation by the President of the New Jersey Food Council;³
11 and ³['(2)'] (3)³ four ¹['public members, with two public members]
12 private citizens with relevant expertise in food waste issues or food
13 management practices, two of whom shall be¹ appointed by the
14 Governor, one ¹['public member] of whom shall be¹ appointed by the
15 President of the Senate, and one ¹['public member] of whom shall be¹
16 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

17 c. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled as
18 provided for the original appointments.

19 d. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable following
20 the appointment of its members^{1,1} and shall select a chairperson from
21 among ¹['the members'] its membership¹. The chairperson shall
22 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

23 e. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
24 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
25 performance of their duties as members of the task force, within the
26 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
27 force for its purposes.

28 f. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
29 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
30 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may
31 require^{1,1} and as may be available to it for its purposes.

32 g. The Department of Human Services shall provide staff support
33 to the task force.

34 h. No later than one year after organization, the task force shall
35 submit to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of
36 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a report of its findings and
37 recommendations for legislative, executive, or ¹['any']¹ other action as
38 may be appropriate to reduce food waste in this State. The task force
39 shall expire upon submission of its report.

40

41 2. This act shall take effect immediately.