

**ASSEMBLY, No. 6065**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED DECEMBER 9, 2019

**Sponsored by:**  
**Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE**  
**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes task force to study presence of mercury in floors of certain facilities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a task force to study mercury exposure.

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

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6 1. a. There is established in the Department of Health the  
7 Task Force on Mercury Exposure in Schools and Child Care  
8 Centers. The duties of the task force shall include: examining the  
9 health risks associated with flooring that contains mercury;  
10 developing best practices with regard to testing the floors of public  
11 and nonpublic schools and licensed child care centers to determine  
12 whether mercury is present; establishing standards for the  
13 remediation of flooring containing mercury; and developing  
14 strategies and protocols to assist schools and child care centers to  
15 implement the best practices developed by task force.

16 b. The task force shall comprise 15 members, as follows:

17 (1) the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of  
18 Environmental Protection, the Commissioner of Education, the  
19 Commissioner of Community Affairs, and the Commissioner of  
20 Children and Families, or their designees, who shall serve ex  
21 officio; and

22 (2) ten public members, with two each to be appointed by the  
23 Governor, the Senate President, the Speaker of the General  
24 Assembly, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority  
25 Leader of the General Assembly. The public members shall have  
26 knowledge and experience with regard to identifying and addressing  
27 environmental health risks in schools and child care centers, as well  
28 as with regard to the particular risks to the public health associated  
29 with building materials containing mercury.

30 c. Appointments to the task force shall be made no later than  
31 30 days after the effective date of this act.

32 d. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but no  
33 later than 30 days following the appointment of its members. The  
34 task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members and  
35 may appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task  
36 force.

37 e. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,  
38 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the  
39 performance of their duties as members of the task force within the  
40 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task  
41 force for its purposes.

42 f. The Department of Health shall provide stenographic,  
43 clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such professional  
44 staff as the task force requires to carry out its work. The task force  
45 shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the  
46 services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal  
47 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require  
48 and as may be available for its purposes.

1       g. No later than one year after its organization, the task force  
2 shall submit to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,  
3 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, a report containing the  
4 findings and recommendations of the task force, including the  
5 standards, best practices, and strategies and protocols developed  
6 pursuant to subsection a. of this section, and any recommendations  
7 for legislative, regulatory, or local government action to address  
8 issues related to the presence of mercury in schools and child care  
9 centers in New Jersey. The task force shall dissolve upon  
10 submission of the report required pursuant to this subsection.

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12       2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon  
13 submission of the task force report.

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#### STATEMENT

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18       This bill establishes the Task Force on Mercury Exposure in  
19 Schools and Child Care Centers. The task force will be established  
20 in the Department of Health, and its duties will include: examining  
21 the health risks associated with flooring that contains mercury;  
22 developing best practices with regard to testing the floors of schools  
23 and licensed child care centers to determine whether mercury is  
24 present; establishing standards for remediation of flooring  
25 containing mercury; and developing strategies and protocols to  
26 assist schools and child care centers to implement the best practices  
27 developed by task force.

28       The task force will comprise 15 members, including the  
29 Commissioners of Health, Environmental Protection, Education,  
30 Community Affairs, and Children and Families, or their designees,  
31 who will serve ex officio; and 10 public members, with two each  
32 appointed by the Governor, the Senate President, the Speaker of the  
33 General Assembly, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the  
34 Minority Leader of the General Assembly. The public members are  
35 to have knowledge and experience with regard to identifying and  
36 addressing environmental health risks in schools and child care  
37 centers, as well as with regard to the particular risks to the public  
38 health associated with building materials containing mercury.

39       Appointments to the task force are to be made no later than 30  
40 days after the effective date of the bill, and the task force is to  
41 organize as soon as practicable, but no later than 30 days following  
42 the appointment of its members. The task force will choose a  
43 chairperson from among its members and may appoint a secretary  
44 who need not be a member of the task force. Members of the task  
45 force will serve without compensation, but will be reimbursed for  
46 necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties  
47 within the limits of available funding.

1       The Department of Health will provide stenographic, clerical,  
2       and other administrative assistants, and such professional staff as  
3       the task force requires to carry out its work. The task force will be  
4       entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the  
5       employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board,  
6       bureau, commission, or agency as it may require and as may be  
7       available for its purposes.

8       No later than one year after its organization, the task force will  
9       be required to submit a report to the Governor and to the  
10      Legislature containing its findings and recommendations, including  
11      the standards, best practices, and strategies and protocols developed  
12      by the task force, and any recommendations for legislative,  
13      regulatory, or local government action to address issues related to  
14      the presence of mercury in schools and child care centers in New  
15      Jersey. The task force will dissolve upon submission of its report.

16      Reports suggest that some types of polyurethane flooring  
17      commonly used in school buildings, including in multipurpose  
18      rooms, gyms, cafeterias, auditoriums, stages, and indoor and  
19      outdoor tracks, contains a chemical that releases odorless, colorless  
20      mercury vapor, which can damage the nervous system, kidneys,  
21      lungs, eyes, and skin, and may be particularly harmful to the  
22      development of young children. It is the sponsor's intent that New  
23      Jersey develop appropriate strategies to detect and remediate  
24      mercury hazards in schools and child care centers.