

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 89**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
218th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK  
District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)  
Assemblywoman AMY H. HANDLIN  
District 13 (Monmouth)  
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**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Space**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes four joint legislative strategic planning committees to recommend proposals that offer long-term solutions to major issues facing this State.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/6/2018)**

1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** supplementing the Joint Rules of the  
2   Senate and the General Assembly to establish four joint  
3   legislative strategic planning committees to make  
4   recommendations to both Houses of the Legislature regarding  
5   proposals that offer long-term solutions to major issues facing  
6   this State.

7  
8   **WHEREAS**, Due to factors that have developed over many years, this  
9   State is facing significant challenges concerning the funding of  
10   public employee benefits, the effects of State tax policies, the cost,  
11   fairness, and effectiveness of education funding, and  
12   competitiveness with other states in creating jobs by attracting and  
13   retaining business in New Jersey; and

14   **WHEREAS**, These challenges result, in full or in part, from a lack of  
15   legislative long-term planning and failure to consider individual  
16   policies and legislative acts in the context of strategic goals for the  
17   betterment of the State; and

18   **WHEREAS**, It is the responsibility of the Legislature to address these  
19   challenges through the development of sound long-term policies;  
20   and

21   **WHEREAS**, The Legislature's standard practices tend to favor a largely  
22   piecemeal approach to policymaking, and the political atmosphere  
23   often creates difficulties in reaching compromise and developing  
24   long-term solutions to complex problems; and

25   **WHEREAS**, There is a need, therefore, for the Legislature to create four  
26   joint legislative strategic planning committees to study these  
27   challenges, examine the long-term outlook for New Jersey in each  
28   such area, and make recommendations for legislation or other  
29   policy changes designed to provide relief for taxpayers and improve  
30   the long-term prospects for New Jersey's attractiveness and  
31   affordability as a place for individuals, families and businesses to  
32   remain or relocate to; now, therefore,

33  
34    **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
35   *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

36  
37    The following Joint Rules are adopted:

38  
39    1. There are created four joint legislative strategic planning  
40    committees. Each committee shall consist of nine members: two  
41    members of the Senate appointed by the President thereof; two  
42    members of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader thereof,  
43    two members of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker  
44    thereof; two members of the General Assembly appointed by the  
45    Minority Leader thereof; and one member who shall be a former  
46    Governor of this State appointed jointly by the President and the  
47    Speaker. Only a former Governor who was elected to that office  
48    shall be eligible for appointment to a committee pursuant to this

1 section. Of the former Governors appointed to the four committees,  
2 not more than two shall be of the same political party. If a former  
3 Governor is unavailable for an appointment, a committee shall  
4 consist of the eight appointed legislative members. Legislative  
5 members shall be of the same political party as the presiding officer  
6 or leader making the appointment. A member may be removed  
7 from a committee for cause by the appointing officer, except that if  
8 any member is so removed, the appointing officer shall forthwith  
9 appoint another member in the same manner that the original  
10 appointment was made. The President and the Speaker shall each  
11 designate one appointee to a committee as co-chairperson of that  
12 committee. The co-chairs shall be members of different political  
13 parties.

14  
15 2. Each committee shall meet at the call of its co-chairpersons.  
16 The committees may review the functions, duties, operations and  
17 programs of agencies of the State and its political subdivisions  
18 relevant to the areas of review as set forth herein, as well as the  
19 relevant governing statutes, regulations, ordinances, resolutions,  
20 policies, and orders. As part of that review, the committees may  
21 examine pending and proposed bills and resolutions, as well as  
22 relevant reports and testimony. In addition, each committee shall  
23 endeavor to invite non-partisan experts in fields related to the  
24 committee's subject areas to testify before the committee and to  
25 provide other appropriate assistance to the committee. Each  
26 committee shall prepare reports of its deliberations and  
27 recommendations at such intervals as the committee determines to  
28 be appropriate, but not less often than annually unless an extension  
29 is approved jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker  
30 of the General Assembly. Each report shall be transmitted to the  
31 Senate and the General Assembly and shall include, but not be  
32 limited to, any proposals that the committee may wish to  
33 recommend for constitutional amendments or legislation to bring  
34 about reform.

35  
36 3. There is created the Joint Legislative Strategic Planning  
37 Committee on Public Employee Benefits. It shall be the duty of the  
38 committee to examine ways to lower costs to taxpayers, preserve  
39 the goal of attracting and retaining qualified employees, and  
40 provide a level of benefits to complement salary that provides an  
41 appropriate compensation package in light of national trends in the  
42 public and private sectors.

43 The committee shall specifically examine the following:  
44 the existing unfunded liability of the State-administered  
45 retirement systems and the projected cost of the State's employer  
46 contributions in dollars and as a percentage of projected State  
47 revenue over the next 30 years;

1 the cost to public employers of providing health care benefits to  
2 employees and retirees;  
3 a comparison of public pension and health benefits in New  
4 Jersey to those of large private-sector New Jersey employers,  
5 including the cost of the benefits and the relative share of the costs  
6 borne by the employee and employer;  
7 the benefits and disadvantages of transitioning from a defined  
8 benefit system to a defined contribution system, with  
9 recommendations for the option deemed best for balancing cost, the  
10 employee's ability to maximize returns and minimize risk, and the  
11 ability of public employers to attract and retain qualified  
12 employees;  
13 the options available in the selection of health benefit plans, for  
14 both public employers and employees, and whether there is a  
15 sufficiently varied range of choices and appropriate incentives to  
16 choose lower cost plans; and  
17 the findings and recommendations of the New Jersey Pension  
18 and Health Benefit Study Commission established by Executive  
19 Order No. 161 (Christie) of 2014.

20

21 4. There is created the Joint Legislative Strategic Planning  
22 Committee on the Effects of State Tax Policy. It shall be the duty  
23 of the committee to examine the revenue generated by State taxes  
24 and any other perceived benefit, as compared to the economic or  
25 other impact of those taxes, the fairness and affordability to the  
26 taxpayer, predictability of the revenue stream for budgeting  
27 purposes, and the relative efficiency of methods of collecting  
28 revenue through each particular tax.

29 The committee shall specifically examine the following:

30 the effect of the Sales and Use Tax, Gross Income Tax,  
31 Corporation Business Tax, estate tax, inheritance tax, and realty  
32 transfer fee on individuals and small businesses, particularly on  
33 decisions to move out of New Jersey and to close businesses;

34 ways to reduce the overall burden on taxpayers; and

35 possible ways to reform the tax system to minimize compliance  
36 costs and inefficiency in the collection process.

37

38 5. There is created the Joint Legislative Strategic Planning  
39 Committee on Public Education Funding and Reform. It shall be  
40 the duty of the committee to examine the existing school funding  
41 formula and annual appropriations for education funding since the  
42 adoption of that formula, the budgeting and spending practices of  
43 school districts, educational outcomes and their relationship to  
44 funding levels and programs, the meaning of the "thorough and  
45 efficient" clause of the State Constitution, the role of the New  
46 Jersey Supreme Court in determining education funding policy and  
47 the impact of the court's decisions with regard to educational  
48 outcomes, and the results of various education reform initiatives

1 including, but not limited to, school choice and charter schools, and  
2 teacher tenure and evaluation reform.

3 The committee shall specifically examine the following:  
4 the cost to the State of aid to school districts over the next 30  
5 years under the current school funding formula;  
6 the relationship between the current school funding formula and  
7 educational outcomes;  
8 a comparison of the preceding two items with the experiences of  
9 others states;  
10 options for changes to the system of education funding in this  
11 State, including possible changes that may necessitate amending the  
12 State Constitution, in order to provide a more thorough and efficient  
13 funding system that will result in greater fairness in the allocation  
14 of aid and less inequality between the recipients of higher and lower  
15 amounts of aid per pupil, and make funding related to educational  
16 outcomes; and  
17 programs, policies, and approaches that are not necessarily  
18 related to funding but which may improve educational outcomes.

19

20 6. There is created the Joint Legislative Strategic Planning  
21 Committee on Jobs and Economic Development. It shall be the  
22 duty of the committee to examine all factors contributing to the  
23 State's attractiveness as a place in which to establish, maintain and  
24 expand a business, with specific attention to differing needs of  
25 small businesses and larger ones.

26 The committee shall specifically examine the following:  
27 incentive programs currently offered by the State;  
28 the marketing and promotion of incentive programs and other  
29 benefits of locating or expanding commercial operations in the  
30 State;  
31 taxes on businesses including, but not limited to, the corporation  
32 business tax and the gross income tax;  
33 other taxes that may impact economic competitiveness with other  
34 states, including, but not limited to, the sales and use tax, excise  
35 taxes and property taxes; and  
36 other State policies with a substantial direct or indirect impact on  
37 businesses, including but not limited to administrative regulations,  
38 permitting processes, energy policy, and education and workforce  
39 training.

40

41 7. Each joint legislative strategic planning committee shall  
42 organize as soon as possible after the appointment of its members.

43

44 8. Five members of a joint legislative strategic planning  
45 committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any  
46 business. Official committee action shall be by a majority vote of  
47 the members serving on the committee.



1 standard practices tend to favor a largely piecemeal approach to  
2 policymaking, and the political atmosphere often creates difficulties  
3 in reaching compromise and developing long-term solutions to  
4 complex problems. These committees will provide a specific venue  
5 for the Legislature to examine the long-term outlook for New Jersey  
6 in each area, and make recommendations for legislation or other  
7 policy changes designed to provide relief for taxpayers and improve  
8 the long-term prospects for New Jersey's attractiveness and  
9 affordability as a place for individuals, families and businesses to  
10 remain or relocate to.