

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 2707

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 14, 2018

Sponsored by:

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District 29 (Essex)

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SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force within DOE on prevention of sexual abuse of children.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on June 21, 2018.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2018)

1 AN ACT establishing a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse
 2 of children and supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the
 3 New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
 8 1. a. There is established within the Department of Education a
 9 task force on the prevention of, and response to, sexual abuse of
 10 children. The purpose of the task force shall be to study and make
 11 recommendations for reducing the prevalence and impact of child
 12 sexual abuse in the State, including recommendations for school
 13 policies and training concerning child sexual abuse prevention and
 14 response.

15 b. The task force shall consist of the following ¹~~15~~ ¹⁶~~16~~
 16 members:

17 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee;

18 (2) the Commissioner of the Department of Children and
 19 Families, or a designee;

20 (3) the President of the State Board of Education, or a designee;
 21 and

22 (4) ¹~~12~~ ¹³~~13~~ public members appointed by the Governor, in
 23 consultation with the Department of Education, who shall include
 24 the following:

25 (a) a representative from: the New Jersey School Boards
 26 Association; a New Jersey teachers union; ¹~~the New Jersey~~
 27 Association of School Administrators; the New Jersey Principals
 28 and Supervisors Association;¹ the New Jersey Coalition Against
 29 Sexual Assault; Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey; the New Jersey
 30 Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers; and the New
 31 Jersey Children's Alliance;

32 (b) a licensed therapist trained to counsel or treat child sexual
 33 abuse victims;

34 (c) ¹~~a school employee who has administrative or supervisory~~
 35 experience;

36 (d) ¹~~a New Jersey county prosecutor;~~

37 ¹~~(e)~~ ¹~~(d)~~ an individual who has experience and expertise in
 38 the field of harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies;

39 ¹~~(f)~~ ¹~~(e)~~ a parent of a student enrolled in an elementary or
 40 secondary school in New Jersey; and

41 ¹~~(g)~~ ¹~~(f)~~ an individual who is a survivor of child sexual abuse.

42 The appointment of public members shall reflect the geographic
 43 diversity of the State.

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:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted June 21, 2018.

1 c. Public members of the task force shall serve for a term of
2 three years, except that of the initial appointments, four public
3 members shall serve for one year, ¹~~four~~ five¹ public members
4 shall serve for two years, and four public members shall serve for
5 three years. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be
6 filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made.
7 Members are eligible for reappointment to the task force.

8 d. The Commissioner of Education, or a designee, shall serve
9 as chairperson of the task force. The task force shall meet at the
10 call of the chairperson. The task force shall appoint a secretary who
11 need not be a member of the task force. ¹The task force, in its
12 discretion, may divide its membership into subcommittees in the
13 course of carrying out its duties.¹

14 e. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
15 but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
16 performance of their duties as members of the task force within the
17 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
18 force for its purposes.

19

20 2. a. The Department of Education shall provide such
21 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such
22 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.

23 b. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
24 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
25 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
26 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

27

28 3. In executing its duties under this act, the task force shall
29 consult with the employees of the Department of Children and
30 Families who work on child protection matters, the New Jersey
31 State Police, the State Board of Education, and any other State
32 agency or department necessary to accomplish the task force's
33 responsibilities.

34

35 4. a. It shall be the duty of the task force to make
36 recommendations for reducing child sexual abuse in this State. The
37 task force shall also make recommendations for school policies and
38 training that address the sexual abuse of children. In making its
39 recommendations, the task force shall do the following:

40 (1) gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout
41 the State;

42 (2) receive reports and testimony from individuals, State and
43 local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public
44 and private organizations;

45 (3) review steps taken and programs established in other states
46 to reduce child sexual abuse;

47 (4) create goals for State policy that are aimed at preventing
48 child sexual abuse;

1 (5) create recommendations and guidelines for school policies
2 addressing sexual abuse of children. The recommendations and
3 guidelines shall be flexible enough to allow accommodation for
4 local autonomy and values;

5 (6) review current instructional programs or curricula provided
6 in New Jersey schools on issues related to child sexual abuse, and
7 create recommendations for a sample curriculum to be utilized by
8 school districts;

9 (7) create recommendations and guidelines for school personnel
10 to respond appropriately to students affected by sexual abuse,
11 including any recommendations for teacher professional
12 development and training on this issue;

13 (8) create recommendations and guidelines for age-appropriate,
14 evidence-based child sexual abuse awareness, including guidelines
15 for utilizing appropriately trained professionals to provide the
16 student instruction and teacher training on this issue;

17 (9) create recommendations and guidelines for providing
18 educational material to parents and guardians on the warning signs
19 of child sexual abuse and information on assistance and referrals or
20 resources; and

21 (10) develop a child sexual abuse protocol to be utilized by all
22 community partners in order to help identify, prevent, and
23 investigate child sexual abuse.

24 b. The recommendations described in subsection a. of this
25 section may include proposals for specific statutory changes and
26 methods to foster cooperation among State agencies and between
27 the State and local government. The recommendations also may
28 identify opportunities for collaboration among State and local
29 agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and
30 private organizations to provide prevention education services.

31 c. The task force shall present any recommendations and
32 guidelines concerning school policies, updates to the New Jersey
33 Student Learning Standards, and school personnel, as developed
34 pursuant to paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) of subsection a. of this
35 section, to the State Board of Education for consideration and
36 possible adoption.

37
38 5. The task force shall issue a report of its recommendations to
39 the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of
40 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 18 months after the
41 organization of the task force. The task force shall issue
42 reports of any new or updated recommendations on at least a
43 biennial basis.

44
45 6. The Department of Education shall create educational
46 materials for parents and guardians based upon the
47 recommendations developed by the task force pursuant to paragraph
48 (9) of subsection a. of section 4 of this act. The department shall

1 provide the educational materials to local Parent Teacher
2 Associations throughout the State for presentation to their members.

3

4 7. This act shall take effect immediately.