

**SENATE, No. 4003**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED JUNE 24, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator BOB SMITH**

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “NJ One Health Task Force.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the “New Jersey One Health Task Force,” and  
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

6  
7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The term “One Health” reflects the interconnectedness of  
9 human health, animal health, and the environment;

10 b. The strong connections and interdependency between  
11 human, companion animal, livestock, and ecosystem health are  
12 recognized in the One Health initiative framework, which facilitates  
13 addressing complex, multi-disciplinary issues such as zoonotic  
14 diseases, vector-borne diseases, and antimicrobial resistance;

15 c. Existing One Health initiatives at the federal level include  
16 the One Health Office established by the Centers for Disease  
17 Control and Prevention and the One Health Coordination center  
18 established by the United States Department of Agriculture’s  
19 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and worldwide more  
20 than 950 prominent scientists, physicians, and veterinarians have  
21 endorsed the One Health initiative;

22 d. Awareness and collaboration among disciplines will help  
23 protect the environment, the health of all species, save lives in  
24 present and future generations, and increase quality of life, physical  
25 and mental health, and productivity;

26 e. The term “One Health” recognizes that the health of people  
27 is connected to the health of animals and the environment and is  
28 described as a collaborative, multi-sector, and transdisciplinary  
29 approach, working at the local, regional, national, and global levels,  
30 with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the  
31 interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared  
32 environment;

33 f. One Health is not a new concept, but it has become  
34 increasingly important in recent years as many factors have changed  
35 interactions between people, animals, and the environment, leading  
36 to the emergence or reemergence of many diseases;

37 g. A One Health approach is important because: six out of  
38 every 10 infectious diseases in humans are spread from animals;  
39 animals can sometimes serve as early warning signs of potential  
40 illness in people; and public health preparedness depends on  
41 agriculture in a variety of ways, including the cultivation of a wide-  
42 range of vaccines in poultry eggs; and

43 h. It is, therefore, in the public interest for the State to establish  
44 a permanent New Jersey One Health Task Force to promote the  
45 health and wellness of New Jersey’s residents, animals, including  
46 pets, livestock, and wildlife, and natural resources by encouraging  
47 the collaborative efforts of experts and leveraging knowledge and  
48 resources effectively.

1       2. a. There is established the “New Jersey One Health Task  
2 Force” in the Department of Health. The purpose of the task force  
3 shall be to develop a strategic plan to promote inter-disciplinary  
4 communication and collaboration between physicians,  
5 veterinarians, and other scientific professionals and State agencies,  
6 with the goal of promoting the health and well-being of the State’s  
7 residents, animals, and environment.

8       b. The goals and responsibilities of the task force shall include,  
9 but are not limited to:

10       (1) development of a plan to promote inter-disciplinary  
11 communication and collaboration between human, animal, and  
12 environment health professionals;

13       (2) development of protocols for the response to, and recovery  
14 from, zoonotic disease outbreaks in animals and humans;

15       (3) development of better diagnostic tests for zoonotic, vector-  
16 borne, and environmental diseases;

17       (4) collaboration among disciplines for development of effective  
18 xenosurveillance to identify genetic signatures of pathogens in  
19 vertebrates;

20       (5) promotion of and education concerning judicious antibiotic  
21 use by human, veterinary, and agriculture health professionals;

22       (6) investigation of antibiotic alternatives, such as bacteriophage  
23 therapy;

24       (7) coordination and collaboration among appropriate entities to  
25 develop new approaches to reduce hazards to human and animal  
26 health and to address public health threats in a manner that prevents  
27 duplication; and

28       (8) educational and outreach initiatives to promote the One  
29 Health approach across State government agencies, the State’s  
30 academic and research institutions, nongovernmental organizations,  
31 and private entities.

32       c. In executing its responsibilities, the task force shall identify  
33 and partner with academic institutions and nongovernmental  
34 organizations in the State and consult with associations,  
35 organizations, and individuals who are knowledgeable with the One  
36 Health initiative.

37

38       3. a. The New Jersey One Health Task Force shall consist of  
39 13 members as follows:

40       (1) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the secretary’s designee,  
41 who shall serve ex officio;

42       (2) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the  
43 commissioner’s designee, who shall serve ex officio;

44       (3) the Commissioner of Health, or the commissioner’s  
45 designee, who shall serve ex officio;

46       (4) 10 public members to be appointed by the Governor, with  
47 the advice and consent of the Senate, as follows:

- 1 (a) one person representing the medical community, who is a  
2 medical practitioner licensed to practice in the State;
- 3 (b) two people who are veterinarians licensed or approved to  
4 practice in the State by the State Board of Veterinary Medical  
5 Examiners, one of whom shall have knowledge, competence, or  
6 experience with farm animals;
- 7 (c) one person with knowledge, competence, or experience in  
8 medical research;
- 9 (d) one person with knowledge, competence, or experience in  
10 zoonotic diseases;
- 11 (e) two people with expertise, knowledge, and experience in  
12 epidemiology or biomedical sciences; and
- 13 (f) three people representing the State's academic community  
14 with expertise, knowledge, and experience in public health,  
15 ecology, natural resources, or environmental and biological  
16 sciences.
- 17 b. Each public member of the task force shall serve for a term  
18 of four years, except that, of the members first appointed, two  
19 appointees shall serve for terms of four years, three appointees shall  
20 serve for terms of three years, three appointees shall serve for terms  
21 of two years, and two appointees shall serve for terms of one year.  
22 Each member shall hold office for the term of appointment, and  
23 until their successor is appointed and qualified.
- 24 Any vacancy in the task force membership shall be filled for the  
25 unexpired term, in the same manner provided for the original  
26 appointment. Members are eligible for reappointment to the task  
27 force.
- 28 c. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable after the  
29 appointment of a majority of its members, and shall select a  
30 chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members, as  
31 well as a secretary who need not be a member of the task force. A  
32 majority of the membership of the task force shall constitute a  
33 quorum for the transaction of task force business. The task force  
34 may meet and hold hearings at the place or places as it shall  
35 designate.
- 36 d. The members of the task force shall serve without  
37 compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other necessary  
38 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within the  
39 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task  
40 force for its purposes.
- 41 e. The Department of Health shall provide professional and  
42 clerical staff to the task force as may be necessary for the task  
43 force's purposes. The task force shall also be entitled to call upon  
44 the services of any State, county, or municipal department, board,  
45 commission, or agency, as may be available to it for its purposes.
- 46 f. The task force may solicit and receive grants and other funds  
47 that are made available for the task force's purposes by any  
48 governmental, public, private, not-for-profit, or for-profit agency,

1 including funds that are made available under any federal or State  
2 law, regulation, or program.

3  
4 4. Within 12 months after the task force's organizational  
5 meeting, and at least biennially thereafter, the task force shall  
6 submit a written report to the Governor, and, pursuant to section 2  
7 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature summarizing  
8 its work in the prior year, and may include any recommendations  
9 for legislative or regulatory action to improve, promote, and protect  
10 the health and well-being of the State's residents, animals, and  
11 environment. Reports issued pursuant to this section shall be  
12 posted on the Internet website of the Department of Agriculture, the  
13 Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of  
14 Health.

15  
16 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

17  
18  
19 STATEMENT

20  
21 This bill would establish a "New Jersey One Health Task Force"  
22 in the Department of Health. The task force is charged with  
23 developing a strategic plan to promote inter-disciplinary  
24 communication and collaboration between physicians,  
25 veterinarians, and other scientific professionals and State agencies,  
26 with the goal of promoting the health and well-being of the State's  
27 residents, animals, and environment.

28 The task force would consist of the following members: the  
29 Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Environmental  
30 Protection, and the Commissioner of Health, or their respective  
31 designees; and 10 members appointed by the Governor, with the  
32 advice and consent of the Senate, as follows: one person  
33 representing the medical community, who is a medical practitioner  
34 licensed to practice in the State; two people who are veterinarians  
35 licensed or approved to practice in the State by the State Board of  
36 Veterinary Medical Examiners, one of whom has knowledge,  
37 competence, or experience with farm animals; one person with  
38 knowledge, competence, or experience in medical research; one  
39 person with knowledge, competence, or experience in zoonotic  
40 diseases; two people with expertise, knowledge, and experience in  
41 epidemiology or biomedical sciences; and three people representing  
42 the State's academic community with expertise, knowledge, and  
43 experience in public health, ecology, natural resources, or  
44 environmental and biological sciences.

45 "One Health" recognizes that the health of people is connected to  
46 the health of animals and the environment. One Health is not a new  
47 concept, but it has become increasingly important in recent years, as  
48 many factors have changed interactions between people, animals,

1 and the environment, leading to the emergence or reemergence of  
2 many diseases. A One Health approach encourages collaborative  
3 efforts of experts working across human, animal, and environmental  
4 health to improve the health of people and animals, including pets,  
5 livestock, and wildlife. The federal Centers for Disease Control and  
6 Prevention established a One Health Office, recognizing that the  
7 health of people is connected to the health of animals and the shared  
8 environment.  
9 This bill would ensure that this collaborative effort also occurs at  
10 the State level.