

ASSEMBLY, No. 644

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO

District 2 (Atlantic)

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District 2 (Atlantic)

SYNOPSIS

Creates State Dredging Task Force.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** creating the State Dredging 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 the “State Dredging Task Force.”
7 The purpose of the task force shall be to investigate current
8 dredging policies and practices. The task force shall review the
9 current dredging policies and practices in the State and other states,
10 and examine how states and the appropriate counties in this State
11 and other states handle the process of dredging. The task force
12 shall also examine new and innovative methods of disposal of
13 dredged spoils, and shall recommend methods of disposal to be
14 considered by the State, a schedule establishing a regular cycle of
15 dredging projects, and ways to establish and maintain the State
16 dredging project priority list.

17 b. The task force shall consist of 11 members as follows:

18 (1) two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the
19 Senate, who shall not be both of the same political party, and one of
20 whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate as
21 chairperson of the task force;

22 (2) two members of the General Assembly appointed by the
23 Speaker of the General Assembly, who shall not be both of the
24 same political party, and one of whom shall be appointed by the
25 Speaker of the General Assembly as vice chairperson of the task
26 force;

27 (3) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the
28 commissioner’s designee;

29 (4) the Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner’s
30 designee;

31 (5) the director of The Center for Maritime Systems at Stevens
32 Institute of Technology, or the director’s designee;

33 (6) one representative of the academic community with
34 expertise, knowledge, or experience in coastal or ocean ecosystems
35 and habitat; and

36 (7) three representatives of coastal municipalities.

37 c. The task force shall call upon the United States Army Corps
38 of Engineers and request the participation of a representative from
39 that agency to serve on the task force, as a non-voting member, to
40 provide information on the current status of dredging policies and
41 practices as well as information regarding actions taken by other
42 states concerning dredging.

43 d. The four public members shall be appointed by the Governor
44 within 30 days after the date of enactment of this act.

45 e. Any vacancy in the membership of the task force shall be
46 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

47 f. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

1 2. a. The State Dredging Task Force shall organize as soon as
2 may be practicable after the appointment of its members. The task
3 force shall hold a minimum of four public hearings, with at least
4 one public hearing to be held in each of the north, south, and central
5 regions of the State. The task force may also meet regularly as it
6 may determine, or at the call of the chairperson of the task force or
7 a majority of the task force's membership.

8 b. A majority of the membership of the task force shall
9 constitute a quorum for the transaction of task force business.
10 Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the
11 task force at any meeting thereof by the affirmative vote of a
12 majority of the membership of the task force in attendance at the
13 meeting.

14 c. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
15 avail itself of the services of such employees of any State, county,
16 or municipal department, authority, board, bureau, task force,
17 agency, or entity, or of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
18 or Stevens Institute of Technology, or any other public institution of
19 higher education in the State, as it may require and as may be
20 available to it for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this
21 act.

22 d. The Office of Legislative Services shall provide primary
23 staff support to the task force.
24

25 3. The State Dredging Task Force shall prepare and submit a
26 final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor
27 and the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
28 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), within one year after the date of its
29 organization.
30

31 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the
32 30th day after the task force submits the final report required
33 pursuant to section 3 of this act.
34

35 36 STATEMENT 37

38 This bill would create the 11-member State Dredging Task Force
39 to investigate current dredging policies and practices. The task
40 force would review the current dredging policies and practices in
41 the State and other states, and examine how states and the
42 appropriate counties in this State and other states handle the process
43 of dredging. The task force would also examine new and innovative
44 methods of disposal of dredged spoils, and recommend methods of
45 disposal to be considered by the State, a schedule establishing a
46 regular cycle of dredging projects, and ways to establish and
47 maintain the State dredging project priority list.

1 The task force would consist of 11 members as follows: two
2 members of the Senate, not of the same party, appointed by the
3 President of the Senate; two members, not of the same party, of the
4 General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the General
5 Assembly; the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the
6 commissioner's designee; the Commissioner of Transportation, or
7 the commissioner's designee; the director of The Center for
8 Maritime Systems at Stevens Institute of Technology, or the
9 director's designee; and four public members. The public members
10 of the task force would be: one representative of the academic
11 community with expertise, knowledge, or experience in coastal or
12 ocean ecosystems and habitat; and three representatives of coastal
13 municipalities.

14 The task force is also directed to call upon the United States
15 Army Corps of Engineers and request the participation of a
16 representative from that agency to serve on the task force, as a non-
17 voting member, to provide information on the current status of
18 dredging policies and practices as well as information regarding
19 actions taken by other states concerning dredging.

20 The bill directs that one of the appointed Senators would be
21 appointed by the President of the Senate to be the chairperson of the
22 task force, and one of the appointed members of the General
23 Assembly would be appointed by the Speaker of the General
24 Assembly as the vice chairperson of the task force. The bill also
25 requires the Governor to appoint the four public members within 30
26 days after enactment and the task force to organize as soon as
27 practicable after the appointment of its members. The Office of
28 Legislative Services is directed to provide primary staff support.

29 The task force is required to hold at least four public hearings
30 with at least one hearing in each of the three main regions of the
31 State. The task force would submit a final report of its findings and
32 recommendation to the Governor and the Legislature within one
33 year after the date of its organization.