

ASSEMBLY, No. 1581

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Wirths

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Invasive Species Task Force.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT establishing an “Invasive Species 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 “Invasive Species Task Force.”
7 The task force shall be comprised of five members as follows:

8 (1) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the
9 commissioner’s designee, who shall serve ex officio and who shall
10 serve as a co-chairperson of the task force;

11 (2) The Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary’s designee,
12 who shall serve ex officio and who shall serve as a co-chairperson
13 of the task force;

14 (3) The Commissioner of Health, or the commissioner’s
15 designee, who shall serve ex officio;

16 (4) The State Forester, or the State Forester’s designee, who
17 shall serve ex officio; and

18 (5) The Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural
19 Experiment Station at Rutgers, the State University, or the
20 Executive Director’s designee, who shall serve ex officio.

21 b. The task force shall organize no more than 30 days
22 following the effective date of this act. The task force shall meet at
23 the call of the co-chairpersons. The task force shall dissolve on the
24 60th day after the date of submission of the report to the Governor
25 and the Legislature pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of this act.

26 c. The members shall serve without compensation, but may be
27 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
28 their duties and within the limits of funds available to the task force.

29 d. The task force shall make recommendations by a majority
30 vote of its members.

31 e. The Department of Environmental Protection and the
32 Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support to the task
33 force. The task force shall, however, be entitled to call to its
34 assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any
35 State department, board, bureau, commission or agency, as it may
36 require and as may be available for its purposes.

37

38 2. a. The Invasive Species Task Force shall:

39 (1) study the most efficient means of controlling invasive
40 species;

41 (2) develop uniform policies and a coordinated response to the
42 threat posed by invasive species to the State’s native and
43 agricultural vegetation, and ecological, cultural, historical, or
44 infrastructure resources;

45 (3) develop a plan to prevent new invasive species from entering
46 the State, and limit the continuing spread of invasive species that
47 are already present;

48 (4) develop a plan to control infestations that currently exist;

- 1 (5) develop a plan to restore ecosystems to their natural
2 condition, and to repair damage caused by invasive species;
- 3 (6) identify regulatory and statutory obstacles and inefficiencies
4 at the federal, State, and local levels impeding the development or
5 implementation of prevention, control, and restoration efforts;
- 6 (7) evaluate the 2009 New Jersey Strategic Management Plan
7 for Invasive Species, prepared by the New Jersey Invasive Species
8 Council pursuant to Executive Order No. 97 of 2004;
- 9 (8) explore and develop alternatives in addition to those
10 discussed in the 2009 New Jersey Strategic Management Plan for
11 Invasive Species, to control the entry and spread of new invasive
12 species into the State;
- 13 (9) prepare a comprehensive invasive species management plan
14 for the State that shall include an estimate of the resources
15 necessary for its implementation; and
- 16 (10) prepare recommendations for legislative action necessary to
17 implement the report.
- 18 b. No later than one year after the task force organizes, the task
19 force shall prepare and submit a report of its findings, plans, and
20 recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
21 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature.

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23 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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28 This bill establishes an “Invasive Species Task Force” which
29 would be comprised of five ex officio members or their designees,
30 including: (1) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, (2)
31 the Secretary of Agriculture; (3) the Commissioner of Health; (4)
32 the State Forester; and (5) the Executive Director of the New Jersey
33 Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers, the State University.
34 This bill would make the Commissioner of Environmental
35 Protection and the Secretary of Agriculture, or their respective
36 designees, co-chairpersons of the Invasive Species Task Force.

37 The Invasive Species Task Force would:

- 38 (1) study the most efficient means of controlling invasive
39 species;
- 40 (2) develop uniform policies and a coordinated response to the
41 threat posed by invasive species to the State's native and
42 agricultural vegetation, and ecological, cultural, historical, or
43 infrastructure resources;
- 44 (3) develop a plan to prevent new invasive species from entering
45 the State, and limit the continuing spread of invasive species that
46 are already present;
- 47 (4) develop a plan to control infestations that currently exist;

- 1 (5) develop a plan to restore ecosystems to their natural
2 condition, and to repair damage caused by invasive species;
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11 Invasive Species, to control the entry and spread of new invasive
12 species into the State;
 - 13 (9) prepare a comprehensive invasive species management plan
14 for the State that would include an estimate of the resources
15 necessary for its implementation; and
 - 16 (10) prepare recommendations for legislative action necessary to
17 implement the report.
- 18 The bill directs the task force to prepare and submit a report of
19 its findings, plans, and recommendations to the Governor no later
20 than one year after the task force organizes.