ASSEMBLY, No. 4481

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)
Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER
District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)
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District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle, Speight, Dunn, DiMaso, Reynolds-Jackson and Assemblyman Johnson

SYNOPSIS
Establishes New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and Safety.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/24/2020)
A4481 MOEN, SUMTER

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AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and Safety.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. a. There is established the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and Safety, which shall be tasked with developing recommendations to make changes to the long-term system of care to drive improvements in person-centered care, resident and staff safety, improvements in quality of care and services, workforce engagement and sustainability, and any other appropriate aspects of the long-term system of care in New Jersey as the task force elects to review. The task force shall specifically focus on:

   (1) developing factors to optimize the balance of services and supports;
   (2) expanding home and community-based services;
   (3) nursing home reforms, including implementing new care models, optimizing nursing home size and configurations to foster resident wellness and infection control, increasing clinical presence in nursing homes, and identifying appropriate nursing home staffing levels and ratios based on resident acuity and special population needs; and
   (4) broader reforms to the long-term system of care, including developing technology requirements to enable enhanced use of telemedicine and telehealth, instituting workforce engagement and advancement models including career laddering options and structures, increasing the use of Medicaid managed care to drive improvements in quality and oversight of nursing homes, and establishing acuity adjustments for Medicaid managed care payments to nursing homes.

b. The task force shall comprise 21 members as follows:

   (1) the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Human Services, and the New Jersey Long-Term Care Ombudsman, or their designees, who shall serve ex officio;
   (2) Six public members to be appointed by the Governor, which public members shall include at least one member representing each of the following: a non-profit nursing home; a for-profit long-term care facility; a nurse with significant experience in long-term care; a consumer rights advocate with experience or background related to long-term care; an expert on aging policy; and a Medicaid managed care organization;
   (3) Six public members to be appointed by the Senate President, which public members shall include at least one member representing each of the following: a for-profit nursing home; a medical director for a non-profit nursing home; a certified nurse assistant; an advocate for worker safety in long-term care facilities;
an expert on disability policy; and a resident of a nursing home or a
long-term care facility; and

(4) Six public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
General Assembly, which public members shall include at least one
member representing each of the following: a non-profit long-term
care facility; a medical director for a for-profit nursing home; a
resident rights advocate; an expert on long-term care policy; an
expert on infection control and prevention; and a family member of
a resident of a nursing home or a long-term care facility.

c. The members of the task force shall be appointed, and the
task force shall organize, no later than 45 days after the effective
date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this
bill). The members shall select a chairperson and a vice-
chairperson from among the public members. The chairperson may
appoint a secretary to the task force, who need not be a member of
the task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the
chairperson.

d. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the
performance of their duties as members of the task force, within the
limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
force for its purposes.

e. The Department of Health shall provide administrative and
staff support to the task force. The task force shall be entitled to
call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees
of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau,
commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available
for its purposes.

f. No later than one year after its organization, the task force
shall prepare and submit a report to the Governor and, pursuant to
section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature,
concerning its recommendations developed pursuant to this section.
The task force shall dissolve 30 days following the date on which it
submits its report under this subsection.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire 30
days after the date the task force submits its report pursuant to
subsection f. of section 1 of this act.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term
Care Quality and Safety, which will be tasked with developing
recommendations to make changes to the long-term system of care
to drive improvements in person-centered care, resident and staff
safety, improvements in quality of care and services, workforce
engagement and sustainability, and any other appropriate aspects of
the long-term system of care in New Jersey as the task force elects
to review.

Specifically, the task force is to focus on: developing factors to
optimize the balance of services and supports; expanding home and
community-based services; nursing home reforms, including new
care models, optimizing nursing home size and configurations to
foster resident wellness and infection control, increasing clinical
presence in nursing homes, and identifying appropriate nursing
home staffing levels and ratios based on resident acuity and special
population needs; and broader reforms to the long-term system of
care, including developing technology requirements to enable
enhanced use of telemedicine and telehealth, establishing workforce
engagement and advancement models, including career laddering
options and structures, increasing the use of Medicaid managed care
to drive improvements in quality and oversight of nursing homes,
and establishing acuity adjustments for Medicaid managed care
payments to nursing homes.

The task force will comprise 21 members, including the
Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Human Services,
and the New Jersey Long-Term Care Ombudsman, or their
designees, who will serve ex officio, and 18 public members
representing various facets of the nursing home industry, with six
each to be appointed by the Governor, the Senate President, and the
Speaker of the General Assembly. The members of the task force
are to be appointed, and the task force is to organize, no later than
45 days after the effective date of the bill. The members will select
a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among the public
members. The chairperson may appoint a secretary to the task
force, who need not be a member of the task force. The task force
will meet at the call of the chairperson.

Members of the task force will serve without compensation, but
may be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the
performance of their duties as members of the task force, within the
limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
force for its purposes.

The Department of Health will provide administrative and staff
support to the task force. The task force will be entitled to call to
its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any
State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission,
or agency as it may require and as may be available for its purposes.

No later than one year after its organization, the task force will
be required to prepare and submit a report to the Governor and to
the Legislature concerning its recommendations. The task force
will dissolve, and the bill will expire, 30 days following the date on
which the task force submits its report.