

Title 4.
Chapter 1.
Article 11. (New)
New Jersey One
Health Task Force
§§1-4
C.4:1-49 to
4:1-52

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 117, *approved June 24, 2021*
Senate, No. 347 (*Second Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** establishing the “New Jersey One Health Task Force,” and
2 supplementing Title ²**[26]** ⁴4² 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 ¹federal¹ Centers for
17 Disease Control and Prevention and the One Health Coordination
18 ¹**[center]** Center¹ established by the United States Department of
19 Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and
20 worldwide more than 950 prominent scientists, physicians, and
21 veterinarians have 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;

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 SHH committee amendments adopted September 14, 2020.
²Senate amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations June 3, 2021.

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

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

11 h. It is, therefore, in the public interest for the State to establish
12 a permanent New Jersey One Health Task Force to promote the
13 health and wellness of New Jersey's residents, animals, including
14 pets, livestock, and wildlife, and natural resources by encouraging
15 the collaborative efforts of experts and leveraging knowledge and
16 resources effectively.

17
18 2. a. There is established the "New Jersey One Health Task
19 Force" in the Department of ²**Health** Agriculture². The purpose
20 of the task force shall be to develop a strategic plan to promote
21 inter-disciplinary communication and collaboration between
22 physicians, veterinarians, and other scientific professionals and
23 State agencies, with the goal of promoting the health and well-being
24 of the State's residents, animals, and environment.

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

27 (1) development of a plan to promote inter-disciplinary
28 communication and collaboration between human, animal, and
29 environment health professionals;

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

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

34 (4) collaboration among disciplines for development of effective
35 xenosurveillance to identify genetic signatures of pathogens in
36 vertebrates;

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

39 (6) investigation of antibiotic alternatives, such as bacteriophage
40 therapy;

41 (7) coordination and collaboration among appropriate entities to
42 develop new approaches to reduce hazards to human and animal
43 health and to address public health threats in a manner that prevents
44 duplication; and

45 (8) educational and outreach initiatives to promote the One
46 Health approach across State government agencies, the State's
47 academic and research institutions, nongovernmental organizations,
48 and private entities.

1 c. In executing its responsibilities, the task force shall identify
2 and partner with academic institutions and nongovernmental
3 organizations in the State and consult with associations,
4 organizations, and individuals who are knowledgeable ¹【with】
5 about¹ the One Health initiative.

6
7 3. a. The New Jersey One Health Task Force shall consist of
8 13 members as follows:

9 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the secretary's designee,
10 who shall serve ex officio;

11 (2) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the
12 commissioner's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

13 (3) the Commissioner of Health, or the commissioner's
14 designee, who shall serve ex officio;

15 (4) 10 public members to be appointed by the Governor, ¹【with
16 the advice and consent of the Senate,】¹ as follows:

17 (a) one person representing the medical community, who is a
18 medical practitioner licensed to practice in the State;

19 (b) two people who are veterinarians licensed or approved to
20 practice in the State by the State Board of Veterinary Medical
21 Examiners, one of whom shall have ¹expertise,¹ knowledge,
22 ¹【competence, or】 and¹ experience with farm animals;

23 (c) one person with ¹expertise,¹ knowledge, ¹【competence, or】
24 and¹ experience in medical research;

25 (d) one person with ¹expertise,¹ knowledge, ¹【competence, or】
26 and¹ experience in zoonotic diseases;

27 (e) two people with expertise, knowledge, and experience in
28 epidemiology or biomedical sciences; and

29 (f) three people representing the State's academic community
30 with expertise, knowledge, and experience in public health,
31 ecology, natural resources, or environmental and biological
32 sciences.

33 b. Each public member of the task force shall serve for a term
34 of four years, except that, of the members first appointed, two
35 appointees shall serve for terms of four years, three appointees shall
36 serve for terms of three years, three appointees shall serve for terms
37 of two years, and two appointees shall serve for terms of one year.
38 Each member shall hold office for the term of appointment, and
39 until ¹【their】 the member's¹ successor is appointed and qualified.

40 Any vacancy in the task force membership shall be filled for the
41 unexpired term, in the same manner provided for the original
42 appointment. Members are eligible for reappointment to the task
43 force.

44 c. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable after the
45 appointment of a majority of its members, and shall select a
46 chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members, as
47 well as a secretary who need not be a member of the task force. A

majority of the membership of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of task force business. The task force may meet and hold hearings at the place or places as it shall designate.

d. The members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

e. The Department of ²~~Health~~ Agriculture² shall provide professional and clerical staff to the task force as may be necessary for the task force's purposes. The task force shall also be entitled to call upon the services of any State, county, or municipal department, board, commission, or agency, as may be available to it for its purposes.

f. The task force may solicit and receive grants and other funds that are made available for the task force's purposes by any governmental, public, private, not-for-profit, or for-profit agency, including funds that are made available under any federal or State law, regulation, or program.

4. Within 12 months after the task force's organizational meeting, and at least biennially thereafter, the task force shall submit a written report to the Governor, and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature ^{1,1} summarizing its work in the prior year, ¹~~and~~ which report¹ may include any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action to improve, promote, and protect the health and well-being of the State's residents, animals, and environment. Reports issued pursuant to this section shall be posted on the Internet website of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Health.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

Establishes "NJ One Health Task Force."