

**SENATE, No. 1764**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator VIN GOPAL**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Senator NELLIE POU**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators O'Scanlon and Corrado**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey Transportation Consolidation Task Force.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2020)**

1    **AN ACT** concerning the consolidation of the New Jersey Transit  
2       Corporation, Transportation Trust Fund Authority, New Jersey  
3       Turnpike Authority, South Jersey Transportation Authority, and  
4       Department of Transportation.

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

8  
9       1. There is hereby created a task force to be known as the  
10      “New Jersey Transportation Consolidation Task Force.” The task  
11      force shall investigate and evaluate the consolidation of the New  
12      Jersey Transit Corporation, Transportation Trust Fund Authority,  
13      New Jersey Turnpike Authority, South Jersey Transportation  
14      Authority, and Department of Transportation. The task force shall  
15      consist of seven members to be appointed as follows: two members  
16      to be appointed by the Governor with professional background and  
17      expertise in the areas of transportation policy, one of whom shall be  
18      employed by the New Jersey Institute of Technology and one of  
19      whom shall be employed by Rutgers, the State University of New  
20      Jersey; one public member to be appointed by the Governor with  
21      professional background and expertise in public finance; one public  
22      member to be appointed by the Senate President; one public  
23      member to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;  
24      one public member to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
25      Senate; and one public member to be appointed by the Minority  
26      Leader of the General Assembly.

27  
28      2.    a. Members of the task force shall be appointed within 30  
29      days after the effective date of P.L.     , c.     (pending before the  
30      Legislature as this resolution). The task force shall organize as  
31      soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days following the  
32      appointment of four members, and shall select a chairperson from  
33      among its members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary, who  
34      need not be a member of the task force.

35      b. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation  
36      but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses actually incurred in  
37      the performance of their duties as members of the task force.

38  
39      3.    a. The task force shall submit a report to the Governor, and  
40      to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
41      (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12 months following the organization  
42      of the task force concerning the consolidation of the New Jersey  
43      Transit Corporation, Transportation Trust Fund Authority, New  
44      Jersey Turnpike Authority, South Jersey Transportation Authority,  
45      and Department of Transportation. The report shall include the task  
46      force’s findings and recommendations concerning potential issues  
47      posed by the consolidation including, but not limited to: legal  
48      matters, including review of bond covenants and labor issues;

1 operational matters; and financial matters, including savings, costs,  
2 and potential changes to the State's credit rating. The task force  
3 shall submit a detailed accounting of cost savings that can be  
4 achieved by agencies prior to consolidation as well as additional  
5 savings that can be achieved following consolidation. The task  
6 force shall include with its recommendations a legislative proposal  
7 to establish the new independent transportation agency resulting  
8 from the consolidation of the New Jersey Transit Corporation,  
9 Transportation Trust Fund Authority, New Jersey Turnpike  
10 Authority, South Jersey Transportation Authority, and Department  
11 of Transportation.

12 b. The task force shall include in its report specific analysis  
13 describing current operations at existing State agencies, best  
14 practices from other states, potential merger strategies,  
15 opportunities for operational efficiencies, and cost savings in the  
16 areas of: purchasing, legal services, planning, engineering, other  
17 professional services including human resources, inter-agency  
18 sharing of major maintenance facilities and equipment, contracting  
19 for goods and professional services, restructuring debt, land  
20 acquisition, aviation, marine dredging, and employee benefits,  
21 salary structure, and work policies.

22 c. The task force shall provide a detailed plan of consolidation  
23 that creates a single new independent transportation agency as  
24 provided in subsection a. of this section. The report shall address  
25 the organizational structure of the new agency, how the agency will  
26 function within State government and interact with local  
27 government entities, where responsibility for transportation  
28 functions will lie within the new agency, and outline the governance  
29 structure for the new agency which includes a board of directors  
30 and a professional executive director.

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32 4. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and  
33 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
34 municipal department, board, bureau, task force, or agency as it  
35 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes, and to  
36 employ stenographic and clerical assistance and incur traveling and  
37 other miscellaneous expenses necessary to perform its duties, within  
38 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it  
39 for its purposes.

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41 5. The task force may meet and hold hearings at the places it  
42 designates, at which it may request the appearance of officials of  
43 any State agency or political subdivision of the State and may  
44 solicit testimony of interested groups and the general public.

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46 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon  
47 the submission of the report required pursuant to section 3 of this  
48 act.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes a task force to investigate consolidation of the New Jersey Transit Corporation, Transportation Trust Fund Authority, New Jersey Turnpike Authority, South Jersey Transportation Authority, and Department of Transportation. The task force is to consist of seven members that are to be appointed as follows: two members appointed by the Governor with professional background and expertise in the areas of transportation policy, one of whom shall be from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and one of whom shall be from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey; one public member appointed by the Governor with professional background and expertise in public finance; one public member appointed by the Senate President; one public member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; one public member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and one public member appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly.

The task force is to submit a detailed accounting of cost savings that can be achieved by agencies prior to consolidation as well as additional savings that can be achieved following consolidation. The task force is to include with its recommendations a legislative proposal to establish the new independent transportation agency resulting from the consolidation

The task force is to provide a professional evaluation of current operations at existing State agencies, best practices from other states, potential merger strategies, opportunities for operational efficiencies, and cost savings in the areas of: purchasing, legal services, planning, engineering, other professional services including human resources, major maintenance facilities and equipment consolidation and inter-agency sharing, contracting for goods and professional services, restructuring debt, land acquisition, aviation, marine dredging, and employee benefits, salary structure, and work policies. This analysis is to be taken into account when recommending a new, consolidated governance structure for the State's transportation system.

The task force is required to submit its recommendations to the Governor and Legislature within 12 months following the organization of the task force.