

SENATE, No. 2500

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 4, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators O'Scanlon and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Local and County Health Department Infectious Disease Preparedness Study Commission.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/15/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning local and county health departments' response
2 to disease outbreaks.

3

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

6

7 1. a. There is established in the Department of Health a study
8 commission to be known as the "Local and County Health
9 Department Infectious Disease Preparedness Study Commission."

10 b. The purpose of the Local and County Health Department
11 Infectious Disease Preparedness Study Commission shall be to
12 study the roles and responsibilities of local and county health
13 departments and the response of local and county health
14 departments to the coronavirus disease 2019. The scope of study
15 commission's analysis shall include, but shall not be limited to:

16 (1) the general roles and responsibilities of local and county
17 health departments in this State and in other states;

18 (2) the role of local and county health departments in the
19 administration of immunizations;

20 (3) the response of local and county health departments during
21 the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic in this State and other
22 states;

23 (4) the communication and coordination between local and
24 county health departments and state health departments prior to and
25 in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic in this State
26 and other states;

27 (5) the communication and coordination between local and
28 county health departments and hospitals and long-term care
29 facilities prior to and during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic
30 in this State and other states;

31 (6) policies and procedures implemented by local and county
32 health departments to respond to an infectious disease outbreak and
33 to curb the spread of the disease; and

34 (7) recommendations as to how local and county health
35 departments may better respond to an infectious disease outbreak.

36 c. The Local and County Health Department Infectious Disease
37 Preparedness Study Commission shall consist of 11 members as
38 follows: the Commissioner of Health, or the commissioner's
39 designee, the chairs of the Assembly Health committee and the
40 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens committee,
41 who shall serve as co-chairs of the study commission, and eight
42 representatives of local and county health departments from the
43 southern, central, and northern regions of the State to be appointed
44 as follows:

45 (1) two members to be appointed by the Speaker of the General
46 Assembly;

47 (2) two members to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the
48 General Assembly;

1 (3) two members to be appointed by the President of the Senate;
2 and

3 (4) two members to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the
4 Senate.

5 d. The study commission shall organize as soon as practicable
6 after the appointment of its members. The study commission may
7 meet and holding meetings at the times and places it may designate.
8 A majority of the authorized members shall constitute a quorum.
9 Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original
10 appointments were made. The members shall serve without
11 remuneration, but shall be eligible for reimbursement for necessary
12 and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties
13 on the commission, within the limits of funds appropriated or
14 otherwise made available to the study commission for its purposes.

15 e. The study commission is entitled to receive assistance and
16 services from any State, county, or municipal department, board,
17 commission, or agency, as may be available to it for its purposes.

18 f. Not later than 12 months after the initial meeting of the
19 study commission, it shall prepare and submit a written report to the
20 Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
21 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), presenting its analysis of the roles and
22 responsibilities of local and county health departments and the
23 response of local and county health departments to the coronavirus
24 disease 2019. The study commission shall expire on the first day of
25 the third month next following the submission of its written report
26 to the Governor and the Legislature, as required by this subsection.
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28 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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31 STATEMENT
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33 This bill establishes the “Local and County Health Department
34 Infectious Disease Preparedness Study Commission” (commission).

35 Under the bill, the purpose of the commission is to study the
36 roles and responsibilities of local and county health departments
37 and the response of local and county health departments to the
38 coronavirus disease 2019. The scope of commission’s analysis is to
39 include: (1) the general roles and responsibilities of local and
40 county health departments in this State and in other states; (2) the
41 role of local and county health departments in the administration of
42 immunizations; (3) the response of local and county health
43 departments during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic in this
44 State and other states; (4) the communication and coordination
45 between local and county health departments and state health
46 departments prior to and in response to the coronavirus disease
47 2019 pandemic in this State and other states; (5) the communication
48 and coordination between local and county health departments and

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1 hospitals and long-term care facilities prior to and during the
2 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic in this State and other states;
3 (6) policies and procedures implemented by local and county health
4 departments to respond to an infectious disease outbreak and to
5 curb the spread of the disease; and (7) recommendations as to how
6 local and county health departments may better respond to an
7 infectious disease outbreak.

8 The bill provides that the commission is to consist of 11
9 members as follows: the Commissioner of Health, or the
10 commissioner's designee, the chairs of the Assembly Health
11 committee and the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior
12 Citizens committee, who are to serve as co-chairs of the
13 commission, and eight representatives of local and county health
14 departments from the southern, central, and northern regions of the
15 State to be appointed as follows: (1) two members to be appointed
16 by the Speaker of the General Assembly; (2) two members to be
17 appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly; (3) two
18 members to be appointed by the President of the Senate; and (4) two
19 members to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

20 Under the bill, not later than 12 months after its initial meeting,
21 the commission is to prepare and submit a written report to the
22 Governor and to the Legislature presenting its analysis of the roles
23 and responsibilities of local and county health departments and the
24 response of local and county health departments to the coronavirus
25 disease 2019. The study commission is to expire on the first day of
26 the third month next following the submission of its written report
27 to the Governor and the Legislature.