

SENATE, No. 2787

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

3

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

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

16 (1) developing factors to optimize the balance of services and
17 supports;

18 (2) expanding home and community-based services;

19 (3) nursing home reforms, including implementing new care
20 models, optimizing nursing home size and configurations to foster
21 resident wellness and infection control, increasing clinical presence
22 in nursing homes, and identifying appropriate nursing home staffing
23 levels and ratios based on resident acuity and special population
24 needs; and

25 (4) broader reforms to the long-term system of care, including
26 developing technology requirements to enable enhanced use of
27 telemedicine and telehealth, instituting workforce engagement and
28 advancement models including career laddering options and
29 structures, increasing the use of Medicaid managed care to drive
30 improvements in quality and oversight of nursing homes, and
31 establishing acuity adjustments for Medicaid managed care
32 payments to nursing homes.

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

34 (1) the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Human
35 Services, and the New Jersey Long-Term Care Ombudsman, or
36 their designees, who shall serve ex officio;

37 (2) Six public members to be appointed by the Governor, which
38 public members shall include at least one member representing each
39 of the following: a non-profit nursing home; a for-profit long-term
40 care facility; a nurse with significant experience in long-term care;
41 a consumer rights advocate with experience or background related
42 to long-term care; an expert on aging policy; and a Medicaid
43 managed care organization;

44 (3) Six public members to be appointed by the Senate President,
45 which public members shall include at least one member
46 representing each of the following: a for-profit nursing home; a
47 medical director for a non-profit nursing home; a certified nurse

1 assistant; an advocate for worker safety in long-term care facilities;
2 an expert on disability policy; and a resident of a nursing home or a
3 long-term care facility; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill establishes the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term
45 Care Quality and Safety, which will be tasked with developing
46 recommendations to make changes to the long-term system of care
47 to drive improvements in person-centered care, resident and staff

1 safety, improvements in quality of care and services, workforce
2 engagement and sustainability, and any other appropriate aspects of
3 the long-term system of care in New Jersey as the task force elects
4 to review.

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

20 The task force will comprise 21 members, including the
21 Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Human Services,
22 and the New Jersey Long-Term Care Ombudsman, or their
23 designees, who will serve *ex officio*, and 18 public members
24 representing various facets of the nursing home industry, with six
25 each to be appointed by the Governor, the Senate President, and the
26 Speaker of the General Assembly. The members of the task force
27 are to be appointed, and the task force is to organize, no later than
28 45 days after the effective date of the bill. The members will select
29 a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among the public
30 members. The chairperson may appoint a secretary to the task
31 force, who need not be a member of the task force. The task force
32 will meet at the call of the chairperson.

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

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

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