

SENATE, No. 2946

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Cryan, Greenstein and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to study technology and other methods used to reduce or eliminate telemarketing harassment and intimidation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing a task force to study technology and other
2 methods used to reduce or eliminate telemarketing harassment
3 and intimidation.

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

7
8 1. a. There is established in the Division of Consumer Affairs
9 in the Department of Law and Public Safety a task force to study
10 technology and other methods used to reduce telemarketing
11 harassment and intimidation. The purpose of this task for is to
12 evaluate and make recommendations relating to the cost and
13 feasibility of implementing appropriate technology and other
14 methods to eliminate or reduce incidents of telemarketing
15 harassment and intimidation of consumers in this State.

16 b. The task force shall consist of 11 members as follows:

17 (1) the Attorney General, the Director of the Division of
18 Consumer Affairs, and the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel,
19 or their designees, who shall serve ex-officio; and

20 (2) 8 public members who shall be appointed by the Governor,
21 including a telecommunications technology expert from AT&T
22 Communications of New Jersey, a telecommunications technology
23 expert from Verizon New Jersey, a telecommunications technology
24 expert from Verizon New Jersey with particular expertise in fiber
25 optic technology, a representative from the American Association
26 of Retired Persons (AARP), a representative from the New Jersey
27 Board of Public Utilities, and three senior citizens who have
28 experienced telemarketing harassment and intimidation.

29 c. Within 90 days after the effective date of P.L. ,
30 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a majority
31 of the task force's authorized membership shall be appointed, and
32 the task force shall hold its initial meeting. The task force shall
33 organize upon the appointment of a majority of its authorized
34 membership and shall elect a chair from among the members. The
35 members of the task force, other than those serving ex-officio, shall
36 serve for the duration of the existence of the task force. Any
37 vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original
38 appointment. The task force members shall serve without
39 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses
40 incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits of funds
41 available to the task force.

42 d. Not later than 180 days after the initial meeting of the task
43 force, the task force shall issue a report to the Governor and to the
44 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),
45 which shall include, but not be limited to, a cost-benefit analysis
46 concerning the implementation of technology and other methods
47 that may be used to reduce telemarketing harassment and
48 intimidation of consumers in this State, the various options for

1 financing the cost of implementation, any other information
2 relevant to the subject of the report, and any draft legislation the
3 task force deems appropriate to implement the purposes of P.L. ,
4 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

5 e. The task force shall be entitled to the assistance and services
6 of employees of any State board, bureau, commission, or agency as
7 the task force may require and as may be available to it for these
8 purposes, including, but not limited to, stenographic and clerical
9 assistants.

10 f. The Office of Information Technology shall assist the task
11 force in the performance of its duties and provide the task force
12 with studies, data, or other materials, to the extent that the
13 assistance is relevant to the purposes of the task force.

14

15 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
16 the issuance of the report submitted by the task force pursuant to
17 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
18 this bill).

19

20

21

STATEMENT

22

23 This bill establishes in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
24 Department of Law and Public Safety a task force to study
25 technology and other methods used to reduce or eliminate
26 telemarketing harassment and intimidation. The purpose of this
27 task for is to evaluate and make recommendations relating to the
28 cost and feasibility of implementing appropriate technology and
29 other methods to reduce incidents of telemarketing harassment and
30 intimidation of consumers in this State.

31 The task force is to consist of 11 members as follows:

32 (1) the Attorney General, the Director of the Division of
33 Consumer Affairs, and the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel,
34 or their designees, who are to serve ex-officio; and

35 (2) 8 public members who shall be appointed by the Governor,
36 including a telecommunications technology expert from AT&T
37 Communications of New Jersey, a telecommunications technology
38 expert from Verizon New Jersey, a telecommunications technology
39 expert from Verizon New Jersey with particular expertise in fiber
40 optic technology, a representative from the American Association
41 of Retired Persons (AARP), a representative from the New Jersey
42 Board of Public Utilities, and three senior citizens who have
43 experienced telemarketing harassment and intimidation.

44 The bill requires the task force is to issue a report to the
45 Governor and to the Legislature, which is to include, but not be
46 limited to, a cost-benefit analysis concerning the implementation of
47 technology and other methods that may be used to reduce
48 telemarketing harassment and intimidation in this State, the various

S2946 A.M.BUCCO, POU

4

1 options for financing the cost of implementation, any other
2 information relevant to the subject of the report, and any draft
3 legislation the task force deems appropriate to implement the
4 purposes of this bill.