

ASSEMBLY, No. 1657

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 1996

By Assemblyman DORIA, Assemblywoman FRISCIA and
Assemblyman Dalton

1 AN ACT establishing the Task Force on Workplace Violence.

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

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6 1. a. There is established the Task Force on Workplace Violence.
7 The task force shall consist of five members as follows: the
8 Commissioners of Labor and Health and the Director of the Division
9 of Workers' Compensation, or their designees, who shall serve
10 ex-officio; and two public members who shall be appointed by the
11 Governor, including one representative of the business community and
12 one representative of organized labor. The task force shall organize
13 upon the appointment of a majority of its authorized membership and
14 shall elect a chairman from among the members. The members of the
15 task force shall serve for the duration of the existence of the
16 commission. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the
17 original appointment, but only for the balance of the unexpired term.
18 The task force members shall serve without compensation, but shall be
19 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their
20 duties.

21 b. The task force shall study the frequency and consequences of,
22 and most effective means to prevent workplace violence. The task
23 force shall, not later than 180 days after the effective date of this act,
24 issue a report to the Governor and the Legislature which shall include,
25 but not be limited to: (1) a review of the incidence of workplace
26 violence, based on data obtained from federal, State and local health,
27 labor and law enforcement agencies; (2) an analysis of the types of
28 businesses, employees and situations associated with or subject to the
29 greatest danger of workplace violence; and (3) recommendations
30 concerning laws, regulations or incentives necessary for increased
31 security in workplaces and protection of employees, including any
32 draft legislation the task force deems appropriate.

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34 2. a. The task force shall be entitled to the assistance and services
35 of the employees of any State board, bureau, commission or agency as
36 it may require and as may be available to it for these purposes, and to

1 employ stenographic and clerical assistants and incur traveling and
2 other miscellaneous expenses as necessary, to perform its duties.

3 b. The Departments of Labor and Health shall assist the task force
4 in the performance of its duties and provide the task force with
5 studies, data or other materials in the possession of those departments.

6 c. The employees of any State agency or political subdivision of the
7 State may serve at the request of the task force upon any advisory
8 committee which the task force may create and these employees may
9 serve upon these committees without forfeiture of office or
10 employment and with no loss or diminution in the compensation,
11 status, rights and privileges which they otherwise enjoy.

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13 3. For purposes of carrying out its duties and responsibilities under
14 this act, the task force shall be authorized to administer oaths or
15 affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, examine
16 them under oath or affirmation, and require the production of any
17 books, records, documents or other evidence it may deem relevant or
18 material to its duties and responsibilities. The task force may meet and
19 hold hearings at the place or places it designates, at which it may
20 request the appearance of officials of any State agency or political
21 subdivision of the State and may solicit the testimony of interested
22 groups and the general public.

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24 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon the
25 issuance of the task force's report.

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STATEMENT

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30 This bill establishes a Task Force on Workplace Violence made up
31 of the Commissioners of Labor and Health and the Director of the
32 Division of Workers' Compensation and two public members
33 appointed by the Governor, including one representative of the
34 business community and one representative of organized labor.

35 The duty of the task force is to study the frequency and
36 consequences of, and most effective means to reduce, workplace
37 violence. The task force is required to issue a report not later than
38 180 days after the effective date of the bill, including:

39 1. A review of the incidence of workplace violence, based on data
40 obtained from federal, State and local health, labor and law
41 enforcement agencies;

42 2. An analysis of the types of businesses, employees and situations
43 associated with or subject to the greatest occurrences of workplace
44 violence; and

45 3. Recommendations concerning laws, regulations or incentives

1 necessary for greater workplace security and employee protection,
2 including any appropriate draft legislation.

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7 Establishes Task Force on Workplace Violence.