

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 81

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 30, 1996

By Assemblymen COHEN and DALTON

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Legislative Task Force on
2 Economic Growth.

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4 WHEREAS, During the 1980s and 1990s, New Jersey manufacturing
5 employment declined every year except for one and was subject to much
6 greater reductions than manufacturing employment at the national level; and

7 WHEREAS, Recent economic reports forecast further employment reductions
8 in the manufacturing sector as well as a host of layoffs in the service sector,
9 especially in the banking and telecommunications industries, both of which
10 have a large presence in this State; and

11 WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of former industrial workers have not benefited
12 from the State's overall growth, but have instead experienced prolonged
13 unemployment, involuntary part-time work, or new jobs in the service
14 sector, with some jobs providing inadequate benefits and much lower pay
15 levels; and

16 WHEREAS, Although recent State initiatives have sought to assist businesses
17 which are prone to experiencing large employment losses, there is still a
18 need to formulate new and innovative initiatives in light of major corporate
19 restructuring and "downsizing" in both the manufacturing and service
20 sectors; now, therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey
23 (the Senate concurring):

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25 1. The Legislative Task Force on Economic Growth is hereby established.

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27 2. The members of the task force shall be appointed as follows: four
28 members of the Senate, two to be appointed by the President of the Senate
29 and two to be appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; and, four members
30 of the General Assembly, two to be appointed by the Speaker of the General
31 Assembly and two to be appointed by the Assembly Minority Leader. One
32 member of the task force shall be elected as chairman.

33 3. The task force shall: a) study approaches to fostering general business
34 retention, and expansion opportunities; b) study approaches to bolstering
35 business development and growth; c) examine impediments to business

1 establishment and development; and d) evaluate the State's high cost structure.
2 The latter evaluation shall include, but not be limited to: business operating
3 costs, such as the cost of property, labor, and energy; business and property
4 taxes; and litigation costs for environmental, labor and health matters.

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6 4. The task force shall organize as soon as possible after the appointment
7 of its members. The chairman shall appoint a vice chairman, and a secretary
8 who need not be a member of the task force. The task force shall meet and
9 hold hearings at any place or places it shall designate during the sessions or
10 recesses of the Legislature.

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12 5. The task force may request the assistance and services of the
13 employees of any State, county or municipal department, board, bureau,
14 commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its
15 purposes; may employ stenographic and clerical assistants; and may incur
16 travel and other miscellaneous expenses necessary to perform its duties, within
17 the limits of funds made available to it for its purposes.

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19 6. The task force shall, in a timely manner, report its findings and
20 conclusions, including recommendations for legislation or for suggested
21 administrative action, to the President of the Senate, the Senate Minority
22 Leader, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Assembly Minority Leader,
23 the members of the Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development
24 Committee or its successor, and the members of the Assembly Commerce,
25 Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee or its successor.

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27 7. This task force shall expire upon the issuance of its report.
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30 STATEMENT
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32 This concurrent resolution establishes the Task Force on Economic
33 Growth. The task force is composed of eight members as follows: four
34 members of the Senate and four members of the General Assembly, appointed
35 on a bi-partisan basis, and is charged in the resolution with studying
36 approaches to fostering general business retention, and expansion
37 opportunities; studying approaches to bolstering business development and
38 growth; examining impediments to business establishment and development;
39 and evaluating the State's high cost structure. The latter evaluation shall
40 include, but not be limited to: business operating costs, such as the cost of
41 property, labor, and energy; business and property taxes; and litigation costs
42 for environmental, labor and health matters.

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3 Establishes the Legislative Task Force on Economic Growth.

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