

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 33

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 1996

By Senator BASSANO

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION creating a Joint Legislative Task Force to  
2 study the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center at Avenel and treatment  
3 of sexual offenders.

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5 WHEREAS, Courts are authorized to sentence certain sexual offenders to a  
6 program of specialized treatment at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment  
7 Center (ADTC) at Avenel if the offender's conduct was characterized by  
8 a pattern of repetitive, compulsive behavior; and

9 WHEREAS, Many of those offenders sentenced to Avenel "max out" and are  
10 therefore released without regard to completion of the course of treatment  
11 offered; and

12 WHEREAS, Questions are raised as to the efficacy of treatment for certain of  
13 these sexual offenders and as to the likelihood of rehabilitation for the  
14 same, including questions about the level of participation in the programs  
15 and therapies offered; and

16 WHEREAS, The tragic death of Megan Kanka in Hamilton Township, New  
17 Jersey has brought the issue of treatment of repetitive, compulsive sex  
18 offenders sharply into focus; and

19 WHEREAS, The public outcry demands an inquiry into current practices and  
20 the possible development of future alternatives for addressing this  
21 immediate, pressing problem of public safety; now, therefore,

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

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26 1. a. There is created a Joint Legislative Task Force to study and make  
27 recommendations concerning the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center  
28 (ADTC) at Avenel and the treatment of offenders convicted of aggravated  
29 sexual assault, sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual contact who are  
30 sentenced there for a program of specialized treatment following a finding that  
31 the offenders' conduct is characterized by a pattern of repetitive, compulsive  
32 behavior. The task force will examine the effectiveness of the ATDC in  
33 treating and rehabilitating sexual offenders. The task force shall meet as soon  
34 as practicable after the appointment of its members.

35 b. The Joint Legislative Task Force shall consider the following issues

1 during the course of its study:

2 (1) Whether sexual offenders, especially pedophiles, can be treated and  
3 rehabilitated;

4 (2) If sexual offenders can be treated, when and why is treatment not  
5 successful; and

6 (3) If sexual offenders cannot be treated or rehabilitated, what other  
7 alternatives are available to manage this population of criminal offenders.  
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9 2. The Joint Legislative Task Force shall consist of 18 members to be  
10 appointed as follows: Two co-chairpersons shall be appointed, one by the  
11 President of the Senate and one by the Speaker of the General Assembly. Six  
12 additional Senators shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; no more  
13 than four of the six shall be of the same political party. Six additional members  
14 of the Assembly shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;  
15 no more than four of the six shall be of the same political party. Four public  
16 members shall be appointed: two by the President of the Senate and two by  
17 the Speaker of the General Assembly. The members of the task force shall  
18 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force. Vacancies  
19 in the membership shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
20 appointments were made.

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22 3. The task force may meet and hold hearings at any place or places it  
23 shall designate during the sessions or recesses of the Senate and General  
24 Assembly.

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26 4. The task force shall report its findings to the Legislature upon  
27 completion of its work, but not later than three months after the passage of this  
28 resolution, accompanying the report with any legislation or recommendations  
29 for legislation which it may desire to have adopted by the Legislature.  
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#### 33 STATEMENT

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35 This concurrent resolution creates a joint legislative task force to study and  
36 make recommendations concerning the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment  
37 Center (ADTC) at Avenel and persons convicted of aggravated sexual  
38 assault, sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual contact who are  
39 sentenced as repetitive, compulsive offenders to a course of treatment there.  
40 The task force is charged with considering during its study the following: can  
41 sexual offenders be treated or rehabilitated; if sexual offenders can be treated,  
42 when and why is treatment not successful; if sexual offenders cannot be  
43 treated or rehabilitated, what other alternatives are available to manage this  
44 population of criminal offenders.

1       The task force consists of 18 legislative members: seven Senators, seven  
2 Assembly members and four public members. There will be two co-chairs of  
3 the task force, one appointed by the Senate President and one by the Speaker  
4 of the General Assembly. The task force has 90 days for its report.  
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9       Creates a task force to study the treatment of sex offenders incarcerated at  
10 ATDC and explore alternatives.

WITHDRAWN