

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1581**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

---

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Assemblyman PARKER SPACE**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Wirths**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Invasive Species Task Force.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Agriculture Committee with technical review.



1    **AN ACT** establishing an “Invasive Species Task Force.”

2

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

5

6       1.   a.   There is established the “Invasive Species Task Force.”  
7   The task force shall be comprised of five members as follows:

8       (1)   The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the  
9   commissioner’s designee, who shall serve ex officio and who shall  
10   serve as a co-chairperson of the task force;

11       (2)   The Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary’s designee,  
12   who shall serve ex officio and who shall serve as a co-chairperson  
13   of the task force;

14       (3)   The Commissioner of Health, or the commissioner’s  
15   designee, who shall serve ex officio;

16       (4)   The State Forester, or the State Forester’s designee, who  
17   shall serve ex officio; and

18       (5)   The Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural  
19   Experiment Station at Rutgers, the State University, or the  
20   Executive Director’s designee, who shall serve ex officio.

21       b.   The task force shall organize no more than 30 days  
22   following the effective date of this act. The task force shall meet at  
23   the call of the co-chairpersons. The task force shall dissolve on the  
24   60th day after the date of submission of the report to the Governor  
25   and the Legislature pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of this act.

26       c.   The members shall serve without compensation, but may be  
27   reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of  
28   their duties and within the limits of funds available to the task force.

29       d.   The task force shall make recommendations by a majority  
30   vote of its members.

31       e.   The Department of Environmental Protection and the  
32   Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support to the task  
33   force. The task force shall, however, be entitled to call to its  
34   assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any  
35   State department, board, bureau, commission or agency, as it may  
36   require and as may be available for its purposes.

37

38       2.   a.   The Invasive Species Task Force shall:

39       (1)   study the most efficient means of controlling invasive  
40   species;

41       (2)   develop uniform policies and a coordinated response to the  
42   threat posed by invasive species to the State’s native and  
43   agricultural vegetation, and ecological, cultural, historical, or  
44   infrastructure resources;

45       (3)   develop a plan to prevent new invasive species from entering  
46   the State, and limit the continuing spread of invasive species that  
47   are already present;

48       (4)   develop a plan to control infestations that currently exist;

- 1       (5) develop a plan to restore ecosystems to their natural
- 2       condition, and to repair damage caused by invasive species;
- 3       (6) identify regulatory and statutory obstacles and inefficiencies
- 4       at the federal, State, and local levels impeding the development or
- 5       implementation of prevention, control, and restoration efforts;
- 6       (7) evaluate the 2009 New Jersey Strategic Management Plan
- 7       for Invasive Species, prepared by the New Jersey Invasive Species
- 8       Council pursuant to Executive Order No. 97 of 2004;
- 9       (8) explore and develop alternatives in addition to those
- 10      discussed in the 2009 New Jersey Strategic Management Plan for
- 11      Invasive Species, to control the entry and spread of new invasive
- 12      species into the State;
- 13      (9) prepare a comprehensive invasive species management plan
- 14      for the State that shall include an estimate of the resources
- 15      necessary for its implementation; and
- 16      (10) prepare recommendations for legislative action necessary to
- 17      implement the report.
- 18      b. No later than one year after the task force organizes, the task
- 19      force shall prepare and submit a report of its findings, plans, and
- 20      recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
- 21      P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature.
- 22
- 23      3. This act shall take effect immediately.