

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2957

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

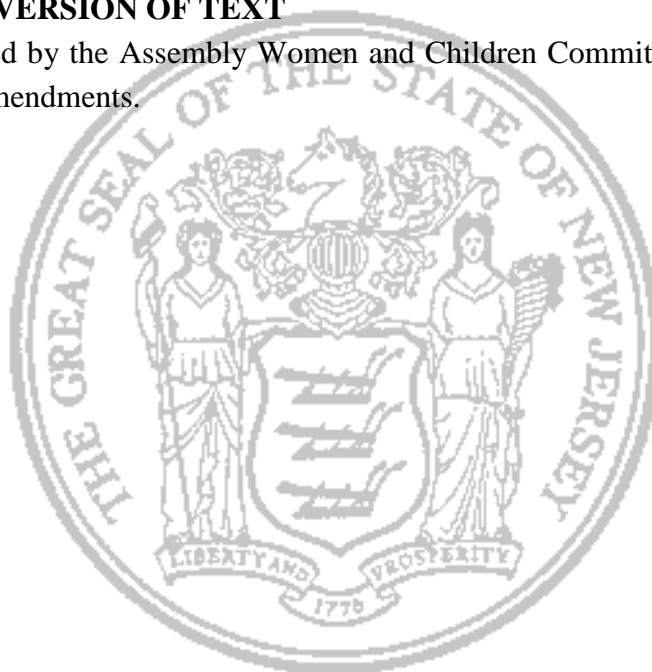
Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle and Assemblyman Danielsen

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to examine issues and make recommendations concerning youth sports, including abusive coaching, confrontational parents, and bullying of players.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Women and Children Committee on June 16, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing a Youth Sports Task Force to examine various
2 issues associated with youth sports.

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

6
7 1. a. There is established a Youth Sports Task Force for the
8 purpose of examining, evaluating, and making recommendations
9 regarding youth sports.

10 b. The task force shall consist of 13 members as follows:

11 (1) six members ¹, two of whom shall be appointed by the Senate
12 President, two of who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
13 General Assembly, and two of whom shall be appointed by the
14 Governor.¹ who each have a background in, or special knowledge
15 of, the legal, policy, educational, social, or psychological aspects of
16 bullying. ¹**These six members shall be appointed as follows: two**
17 **appointed by the Senate President; two appointed by the Speaker of**
18 **the General Assembly; and two appointed by the Governor**¹;

19 (2) four members of the public, to be appointed by the
20 Governor, including: the parent or guardian of a student-athlete who
21 participates in an interscholastic sports program; the parent or
22 guardian of an athlete who participates in youth sports events as
23 defined in section 1 of P.L.2002, c.74 (C.5:17-1); the parent or
24 guardian of an athlete who participates in youth sports activities
25 sponsored by a for-profit entity; and a youth who was a victim of
26 harassment, intimidation, or bullying while participating in youth
27 sports; and

28 (3) three coaches to be appointed by the Governor, including¹:¹
29 a coach of an interscholastic sports program¹**[.];**¹ a coach of youth
30 sports events¹**[.];**¹ and a coach of youth sports activities sponsored
31 by a for-profit entity.

32 c. ¹The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but no
33 later than 30 days following the appointment of its members. The
34 task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members and
35 shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task
36 force.

37 d.¹ Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30
38 days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership
39 of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
40 appointments were made.

41 ¹**[d.] e.**¹ Members of the task force shall serve without
42 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures
43 incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the task
44 force within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made
45 available to the task force for its purposes.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AWC committee amendments adopted June 16, 2021.

1 ¹f. The Department of Education shall provide such
2 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such
3 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.
4 The task force also shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
5 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
6 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
7 may require and as may be available for its purposes.¹
8

9 ¹[2. a. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but
10 no later than 30 days following the appointment of its members.
11 The task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members
12 and shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task
13 force.

14 b. The Department of Education shall provide such
15 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such
16 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.
17 The task force also shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
18 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
19 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
20 may require and as may be available for its purposes.]¹
21

22 ¹[3.] 2.¹ a. It shall be the duty of the task force to study and
23 consider issues in regard to youth sports including, but not limited
24 to, the following:

25 (1) protection for parents, guardians, and athletes from
26 unscrupulous business practices conducted by for-profit entities
27 sponsoring youth sports activities;

28 (2) financial oversight to strengthen the business practices of
29 youth sports team organizations, as defined in section 5 of
30 P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.5), and for-profit entities that sponsor
31 youth sports;

32 (3) training for coaches to recognize the signs and symptoms of
33 harassment, intimidation, and bullying;

34 (4) ways to acknowledge and promote youth sports as an
35 extension of the classroom;

36 (5) developing training workshops for parents and guardians to
37 recognize the signs and symptoms of harassment, intimidation,
38 bullying, and abusive coaching, and on proper spectator conduct;
39 and

40 (6) protection for sports officials from abusive behavior while
41 engaged in the performance of their duties.

42 b. The task force shall hold at least one public hearing during
43 the course of its work in order to receive public input on the issues
44 being studied by the task force.
45

46 ¹[4.] 3.¹ The task force shall issue a final report of its findings
47 and recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature

1 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later
2 than one year after the task force organizes.

3

4 ¹**5.1** 4.1 This act shall take effect immediately, and the task
5 force shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its report.