

ASSEMBLY, No. 5250

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywomen Timberlake, Chaparro and
Assemblyman Verrelli**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Commission on People with Disabilities."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/12/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning people with disabilities and supplementing
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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, in but not of the Department of
8 Human Services, the "Commission on People with Disabilities."

9 b. The commission shall consist of 25 members.

10 (1) Thirteen voting members are to be appointed to the
11 commission as follows:

12 (a) seven members to be appointed by the Governor with at least
13 three members who are persons with disabilities;

14 (b) three members to be appointed by the President of the Senate
15 with at least two members who are persons with disabilities; and

16 (c) three members to be appointed by the Speaker of the General
17 Assembly with at least two members who are persons with
18 disabilities.

19 (2) The following 12 non-voting, ex-officio members, or their
20 designees are to be appointed to the commission: the
21 Commissioners of Human Services, Health, Military and Veterans
22 Affairs, Community Affairs, Education, Labor and Workforce
23 Development, the Chairman of the New Jersey State Employment
24 and Training Commission, the Secretary of Higher Education, the
25 Attorney General, the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual
26 or Developmental Disabilities and their Families, the State Long-
27 Term Care Ombudsman, and Executive Director of Disability
28 Rights New Jersey.

29 c. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
30 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

31 d. Members of the commission shall be appointed within 30
32 days after the effective date of this act, and shall hold their initial
33 organizational meeting as soon as practicable, but no later than 30
34 days following appointment of a majority of its authorized
35 membership. At the initial organizational meeting, the members
36 shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the
37 members of the commission by a majority vote of the members
38 present.

39 e. Members of the commission shall serve without
40 compensation.

41 f. A majority of all the authorized members of the commission
42 shall constitute a quorum, and no action of the commission shall be
43 taken without the affirmative vote of a majority of all the authorized
44 members of the commission, except for the election of the
45 chairperson and vice-chairperson at the initial organizational
46 meeting pursuant to subsection d. of this section.

47 g. The Department of Human Services shall provide primary
48 staff support to the commission.

2. a. The purpose of the Commission on People with Disabilities shall be to:

(1) suggest policies, procedures, regulations, and legislation that help people with disabilities in New Jersey;

(2) serve as the point-of-contact between the Governor, the Legislature, people with disabilities, and those providers who serve people with disabilities in order to ensure that the State government is responsive to the needs of people with disabilities;

(3) work with State departments, commissions, offices, agencies, and providers to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are met regarding services and programs that are available to those individuals; and

(4) work with State departments, commissions, offices, and agencies which oversee the hiring and employment of people with disabilities in the State to ensure that no discrimination takes place.

b. The commission shall prepare an annual report on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations and shall submit the report to the Governor and to the Legislature, in accordance with the requirements of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes the "Commission on People with Disabilities" (commission).

Under the bill, the commission is to consist of 25 members. The purpose of the commission is to:

(1) suggest policies, procedures, regulations, and legislation that help people with disabilities in New Jersey;

(2) serve as the point-of-contact between the Governor, the Legislature, people with disabilities, and those providers who serve people with disabilities in order to ensure that the State government is responsive to the needs of people with disabilities;

(3) work with State departments, commissions, offices, agencies, and providers to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are met regarding services and programs that are available to those individuals; and

(4) work with State departments, commissions, offices, and agencies which oversee the hiring and employment of people with disabilities in the State to ensure that no discrimination takes place.