

ASSEMBLY, No. 5530

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 25, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Dancer, Caputo and Verrelli

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the “Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT establishing the “Kidney Disease Prevention and Education
2 Task Force.”

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

6
7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Chronic kidney disease is the ninth leading cause of death in
9 the United States and among New Jersey residents, with about
10 1,600 deaths occurring in the State each year.

11 b. An estimated 37 million people in the United State have
12 chronic kidney disease and over 200,000 people in the State of New
13 Jersey are living with the disease.

14 c. African-Americans develop kidney failure at a rate of nearly
15 four to one compared to Caucasians, and Hispanics have a 30
16 percent higher risk of developing kidney failure compared to
17 Caucasians.

18 d. Early stage chronic kidney disease has no signs or symptoms
19 and without early detection, can progress to kidney failure.

20 e. Although dialysis is a life-extending treatment, the best and
21 most cost-effective treatment for kidney failure is a kidney
22 transplant. Currently, the average waiting time for a transplant can
23 last upwards of three to five years at most transplant centers; and
24 nationally, 12 people die each day from kidney disease while
25 waiting.

26 f. If chronic kidney disease is detected early and managed
27 appropriately, the individual can receive treatment sooner to help
28 protect the kidneys, slow or even stop deterioration in kidney
29 function, and reduce the risk of associated cardiovascular
30 complications.

31 g. In light of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
32 pandemic and the increased risk of infection for patients with pre-
33 existing conditions and of COVID-19 patients developing acute
34 kidney disease, it is imperative to provide support to individuals
35 with kidney disease.

36
37 2. a. There is established in the Department of Health, the
38 “Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force.” The
39 purpose of this task force is to:

40 (1) develop and implement a public awareness campaign about
41 the benefits of the early detection and treatment of kidney disease
42 that includes, but is not limited to, health education programs,
43 preventative screenings, and social media, television, and radio
44 outreach;

45 (2) examine racial disparities in the rates of chronic kidney
46 disease, kidney transplantations, and living and deceased kidney
47 donations and identify opportunities to promote health equity; and

- 1 (3) make recommendations in the implementation of a cost-
2 effective plan for early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of
3 chronic kidney disease Statewide.
- 4 b. The task force shall consist of 11 members as follows:
- 5 (1) one member of the General Assembly, appointed by the
6 Speaker of the General Assembly, who shall serve as co-
7 chairperson;
- 8 (2) one member of the General Assembly, appointed by the
9 Assembly Minority Leader;
- 10 (3) one member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the
11 Senate, who shall serve as co-chairperson;
- 12 (4) one member of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Minority
13 Leader;
- 14 (5) the Commissioner of Health or the commissioner's designee,
15 who shall serve ex officio;
- 16 (6) the Director of the Office of Minority and Multicultural
17 Health or the director's designee, who shall serve ex officio; and
- 18 (7) five public members, who shall be appointed by the
19 Governor, as follows: one nephrologist; one primary care
20 physician; one member who is a pharmaceutical representative that
21 works with existing kidney medication; one member who is a
22 representative from a leading dialysis center; and one member who
23 has chronic kidney disease between Stages 2-4 that is healthy
24 enough to participate and is not in one of the previous membership
25 categories set forth in this paragraph. Vacancies in the membership
26 of the task force shall be filled in the same manner provided for the
27 original appointments.
- 28 c. The members of this task force shall be appointed within 30
29 days after the effective date of this act. The task force shall
30 organize as soon as practicable following the appointment of its
31 members. The presence of six members shall constitute a quorum.
- 32 d. The task force will meet regularly as the task force
33 determines, or at the call of a majority of the task force's
34 membership.
- 35 e. All meetings of the task force shall be open to the public.
36 Agendas, minutes, documents, and testimony from all meetings
37 shall be posted on the Department of Health's Internet website.
- 38 f. The public members shall serve without compensation.
- 39 g. The Department of Health shall provide stenographic,
40 clerical, and other administrative assistants and professional staff as
41 the task force requires to carry out its work. The task force shall be
42 entitled to call to its assistance and avail of the services of the
43 employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board,
44 bureau, commission, or agency as the task force may require and as
45 may be available for the task force's purposes.

1 3. The task force shall present a report of its findings and
2 recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
3 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than two
4 years after the organization of the task force.

5
6 4. This act shall take effect immediately, and the task force
7 shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its report.

8
9
10 STATEMENT

11
12 This bill establishes the Kidney Disease Prevention and
13 Education Task Force. The purpose of this task force is to:

14 1) develop and implement a public awareness campaign about
15 the benefits of the early detection and treatment of kidney disease
16 that includes, but is not limited to, health education programs,
17 preventative screenings, and social media, television, and radio
18 outreach;

19 (2) examine racial disparities in the rates of chronic kidney
20 disease, kidney transplantations, and living and deceased kidney
21 donations and identify opportunities to promote health equity; and

22 (3) make recommendations in the implementation of a cost-
23 effective plan for early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of
24 chronic kidney disease Statewide.

25 The task force will consist of 11 members as follows: one
26 member of the General Assembly, appointed by the Speaker of the
27 General Assembly, who shall serve as co-chairperson; one member
28 of the General Assembly, appointed by the Assembly Minority
29 Leader; one member of the Senate, appointed by the President of
30 the Senate, who shall serve as co-chairperson; one member of the
31 Senate, appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; the
32 Commissioner of Health or the commissioner's designee, who shall
33 serve ex officio; the Director of the Office of Minority and
34 Multicultural Health or the director's designee, who shall serve ex
35 officio; and five public members, who will be appointed by the
36 Governor, that include: one nephrologist; one primary care
37 physician; one member who is a pharmaceutical representative that
38 works with existing kidney medication; one member who is a
39 representative from a leading dialysis center; and one member who
40 has chronic kidney disease between Stages 2-4 that is healthy
41 enough to participate and is not already in one of the previous
42 membership categories listed.

43 The task force will present a report of its findings and
44 recommendations to the Governor to the Legislature no later than
45 two years after the organization of the task force. The task force
46 will expire 30 days after the issuance of its report.