

**SENATE, No. 1937**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.**

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators A.M.Bucco, Corrado, T.Kean, Singleton and Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Task Force to Promote Employment by State Agencies of People with Disabilities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2020)**

1   **AN ACT** establishing the Task Force to Promote the Employment by  
2       State Agencies of People with Disabilities and supplementing  
3       Title 34 of the Revised Statutes.

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

7  
8       1.   The Legislature finds and declares that:

9       a.   More than 19 million people in the United States work in  
10      state and local governments, and more than 570,000 people have  
11      public sector jobs in New Jersey, including 130,000 State  
12      government employees, employed in a wide variety of jobs and  
13      occupations, including accountants, corrections officers, mail  
14      clerks, chaplains, social workers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and  
15      computer programmers;

16      b.   People with disabilities can benefit from the experience of  
17      employment in State agencies, gaining skills and receiving benefits  
18      through both internships and employment in the public sector and  
19      the State can benefit from the contributions that they can make as  
20      State employees;

21      c.   Nine states have instituted within their human resources  
22      agencies policies and programs that foster the inclusion of people  
23      with disabilities into state government jobs, including provisional  
24      appointments, alternative examination and interview processes, trial  
25      work periods, and special appointment lists;

26      d.   As a leading employer, and as an employer providing many  
27      well-paid, quality jobs with ample paid time off and medical and  
28      pension benefits, the State of New Jersey can set an important  
29      example to other employers, especially private sector employers, by  
30      increasing its efforts to recruit and retain in employment individuals  
31      with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

32      e.   It is therefore appropriate to establish a Task Force to  
33      Promote the Employment by State Agencies of People with  
34      Disabilities for the purposes of studying the problem of  
35      unemployment and underemployment among individuals in New  
36      Jersey with disabilities, reviewing existing programs in this and  
37      other states, and private sector companies, to recruit and retain in  
38      employment individuals with intellectual and developmental  
39      disabilities, and assisting in the identification and implementation  
40      of strategies to expand efforts of New Jersey State agencies to  
41      recruit and retain in employment individuals with disabilities,  
42      including by providing guidance and support to agencies and  
43      institutions of higher education.

44  
45      2.   a.   There is established, in the Department of Labor and  
46      Workforce Development, the Task Force to Promote the  
47      Employment by State Agencies of People with Disabilities. The  
48      task force shall consist of 13 members, including one representative  
49      each for the Civil Service Commission, the Department of

1 Education, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development,  
2 the State Treasurer, the Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals  
3 with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their Families,  
4 the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the State  
5 Rehabilitation Council, and the John J. Heldrich Center for  
6 Workforce Development, who shall serve ex officio, and five  
7 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of  
8 the Senate as follows: a member representing the Association for  
9 Choices in Community Supports and Employment Services  
10 (ACCSES New Jersey); a member representing The Arc of New  
11 Jersey; a representative of a community rehabilitation program, and  
12 two individuals who have a disability.

13 b. All appointments shall be made within 90 days after the  
14 effective date of this act. The appointed members of the task force  
15 shall serve for terms of three years. Vacancies in the membership  
16 of the appointed members of the task force shall be filled in the  
17 same manner as the original appointments.

18 c. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,  
19 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
20 performance of their duties as members of the task force, within the  
21 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task  
22 force for its purposes.

23 d. The task force shall organize as soon as possible after the  
24 appointments are made and select a chairperson from among its  
25 members. The task force shall meet at least quarterly, may hold  
26 meetings and hearings at places and times as it designates, and may  
27 meet at any other times at the call of the chairperson. No action  
28 shall be taken by the task force except by an affirmative vote of a  
29 majority of the voting members.

30  
31 3. a. The purpose of the task force is to study the problem of  
32 unemployment and underemployment among individuals with  
33 disabilities, review relevant, available programs within the State of  
34 New Jersey for State agencies to recruit and retain in employment  
35 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well  
36 as similar programs in other states and private sector employers,  
37 and assist in the identification and implementation of strategies to  
38 expand efforts of New Jersey State agencies to recruit and retain in  
39 employment individuals with disabilities.

40 b. The task force shall issue annual reports which offer a vision  
41 and provide viable recommendations on how the State can increase  
42 opportunities for employment for individuals with disabilities by  
43 expanding efforts of New Jersey State agencies to recruit and retain  
44 in employment those individuals, including by providing guidance  
45 and support to agencies and institutions of higher education.

46 c. The task force shall issue its first report to the Governor and  
47 Legislature not later than one year after the members of the task  
48 force are appointed. Each annual report shall be made available to

1 the public by means including the posting of the report on the web  
2 sites of the State agencies represented on the task force.

3  
4 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

5  
6  
7 STATEMENT

8  
9 This bill establishes the Task Force to Promote the Employment  
10 by State Agencies of People with Disabilities. The Task Force is  
11 directed to study and make recommendations to the Governor and  
12 Legislature regarding the problem of unemployment and  
13 underemployment among individuals with disabilities in the State.  
14 The Task Force will have 13 members, including one representative  
15 each for the Civil Service Commission, the Department of  
16 Education, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development,  
17 the State Treasurer, the Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals  
18 with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their Families,  
19 the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the State  
20 Rehabilitation Council, and the John J. Heldrich Center for  
21 Workforce Development, who shall serve ex officio, and five  
22 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of  
23 the Senate for three year terms, as follows: a member representing  
24 the Association for Choices in Community Supports and  
25 Employment Services (ACCSES New Jersey); a member  
26 representing The Arc of New Jersey; a representative of a  
27 community rehabilitation program, and two individuals who have a  
28 disability.

29 The task force is directed to study the problem of unemployment  
30 and underemployment among individuals with disabilities, review  
31 relevant, available programs within the State of New Jersey for  
32 State agencies to recruit and retain in employment individuals with  
33 intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as similar  
34 programs in other states and private sector employers, and assist in  
35 the identification and implementation of strategies to expand efforts  
36 of New Jersey State agencies to recruit and retain in employment  
37 individuals with disabilities, and issue annual reports which offer a  
38 vision and provide viable recommendations on how the State can  
39 increase opportunities for employment for individuals with  
40 disabilities by expanding efforts of New Jersey State agencies to  
41 recruit and retain in employment those individuals, including by  
42 providing guidance and support to agencies and institutions of  
43 higher education.

44 The first report is to be issued to the Governor and Legislature  
45 not later than one year after the members of the task force are  
46 appointed. Each annual report shall be made available to the public  
47 by means including the posting of the report on the web sites of the  
48 State agencies represented on the task force.