

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1937

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

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Houghtaling and Assemblywoman Downey

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on January 28, 2021.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)

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.

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:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted January 28, 2021.

1 2. a. There is established, in the Department of Labor and
2 Workforce Development, the Task Force to Promote the
3 Employment by State Agencies of People with Disabilities. The
4 task force shall consist of 13 members, including one representative
5 each for the Civil Service Commission, the Department of
6 Education, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development,
7 the State Treasurer, the Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals
8 with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their Families,
9 the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the State
10 Rehabilitation Council, and the John J. Heldrich Center for
11 Workforce Development, who shall serve ex officio, and five
12 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of
13 the Senate as follows: a member representing the Association for
14 Choices in Community Supports and Employment Services
15 (ACCSES New Jersey); a member representing The Arc of New
16 Jersey; a representative of a community rehabilitation program, and
17 two individuals who have a disability.

18 b. All appointments shall be made within 90 days after the
19 effective date of this act. The appointed members of the task force
20 shall serve for terms of three years. Vacancies in the membership
21 of the appointed members of the task force shall be filled in the
22 same manner as the original appointments.

23 c. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
24 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
25 performance of their duties as members of the task force, within the
26 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
27 force for its purposes.

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

35
36 3. a. The purpose of the task force is to study the problem of
37 unemployment and underemployment among individuals with
38 disabilities, review relevant, available programs within the State of
39 New Jersey for State ¹and local government¹ agencies to recruit¹,
40 hire,¹ and retain in employment individuals with intellectual and
41 developmental disabilities, as well as similar programs in other
42 states and private sector employers, and assist in the identification
43 and implementation of strategies to expand efforts of New Jersey
44 State ¹and local government¹ agencies to recruit¹, hire,¹ and retain
45 in employment individuals with disabilities.

46 b. The task force shall issue annual reports which offer a vision
47 and provide viable recommendations on how the State can increase
48 opportunities for employment for individuals with intellectual and

1 developmental disabilities by expanding efforts of New Jersey State
2 and local government agencies to ¹**【recruit and retain】** promote the
3 employment of such individuals by recruiting, hiring, and retaining
4 them¹ in employment ¹**【those individuals】**¹, including by providing
5 guidance and support to agencies and institutions of higher
6 education.

7 c. The task force shall issue its first report to the Governor and
8 Legislature not later than one year after the members of the task
9 force are appointed. Each annual report shall be made available to
10 the public by means including the posting of the report on the web
11 sites of the State agencies represented on the task force.

12

13 4. This act shall take effect immediately.