

SENATE, No. 3311

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 7, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Greenstein, Lagana, Pou and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the “COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing the “COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker
2 Memorial Commission.”

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 the coronavirus
8 disease 2019 pandemic has exacted a terrible toll on the global
9 community, the country, and this State. This global pandemic has
10 claimed over a million lives worldwide, including many lives of
11 frontline healthcare workers that have displayed tremendous
12 courage and dedication in their efforts to treat patients affected by
13 the coronavirus disease 2019. Many of these healthcare workers,
14 from all different healthcare fields including those working in
15 police and fire departments, rose above their usual scope of duties
16 to combat the surging cases of coronavirus disease 2019, often with
17 limited healthcare resources. As one of the early epicenters of the
18 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, it is important for this State to
19 memorialize the tragic consequences of the pandemic and recognize
20 the immense loss of life suffered by this State.

21 The Legislature therefore determines that it is fitting proper and
22 fitting to establish a commission to be known as the COVID-19
23 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission to design and
24 oversee the construction of a memorial dedicated to the frontline
25 healthcare workers that have lost their lives treating patients during
26 the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

27
28 2. a. There is established, in but not of the Department of
29 State, a commission known as the “COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare
30 Worker Memorial Commission,” for the purposes of honoring and
31 recognizing the frontline healthcare workers that lost their lives in
32 the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

33 b. The commission shall consist of nine public members, who
34 shall be residents of the State and representative of frontline
35 healthcare workers, including frontline healthcare workers in police
36 and fire departments. The Speaker of the General Assembly, the
37 Senate President, and the Governor shall each appoint three public
38 members of the commission.

39 c. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
40 filled in the same manner as the original appointments are made.

41 d. The members of the commission shall serve without
42 compensation.

43 e. The commission shall organize as soon as may be
44 practicable after the appointment of a majority of its members and
45 shall elect from among its members a chairperson. The presence of
46 five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

1 f. The commission will meet regularly as the commission
2 determines, or at the call of the chairperson or a majority of
3 commission's membership.

4 g. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.
5 Agendas, minutes, documents, and testimony from all meetings
6 shall be posted on the State's website.

7 h. The commission also may request the assistance and services
8 of the employees of any State, county or municipal department,
9 board, bureau, commission, task force or agency as it may require
10 and as may be available to it for its purposes.

11
12 3. a. The commission shall select a suitable design and location
13 for the construction of a memorial dedicated to the frontline
14 healthcare workers that lost their lives in the coronavirus disease
15 2019 pandemic and shall determine appropriate methods of
16 financing the construction and maintenance of the memorial.
17 Following the selection of a design and specific location for the
18 memorial and the receipt of sufficient funding, the commission
19 shall oversee the construction of the memorial.

20 b. The commission may initiate fund raising measures and may
21 receive monetary donations for the design, construction, and
22 maintenance of the memorial. Any money received by the
23 commission for these purposes shall be deposited in the fund
24 established by section 4 of this act. Not later than 18 months
25 following the effective date of this act, the commission shall
26 prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Legislature, pursuant
27 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a final report, which
28 shall include the final design selected for the memorial, the exact
29 location selected for the memorial, and the amount of funding
30 necessary for construction and maintenance of the memorial.

31
32 4. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a
33 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "COVID-19 Frontline
34 Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund." The fund shall be credited
35 with any moneys received by the COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare
36 Worker Memorial Commission as donations pursuant to subsection
37 b. of section 3 of this act and any moneys as may thereafter be
38 donated or appropriated to the fund. All interest earned on
39 moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund. The moneys in the
40 fund shall be administered by the State Treasurer and held in the
41 fund until appropriated by law. No later than one year, following
42 the effective date of this act, and annually thereafter, the State
43 Treasurer shall certify to the Legislature and the Commissioner of
44 Environmental Protection the total amount of moneys in the fund.

45
46 5. The act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the
47 first day of the sixth month following the completion of the
48 memorial, except for section 4, which shall remain in effect.

STATEMENT

This bill would establish a commission, in but not of the Department of State, to be known as the COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission. The commission would be charged with designing and overseeing the construction of a memorial for the purposes of honoring and recognizing the frontline healthcare workers that lost their lives in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

The commission would consist of nine public members who are residents of the State and representative of frontline healthcare workers, including frontline healthcare workers in police and fire departments. The Speaker of the General Assembly, the Senate President, and the Governor will each appoint three public members of the commission.

The commission would be responsible for selecting a suitable design and suitable location for the memorial, and for determining appropriate methods of financing its construction and maintenance. Following the selection of a design and specific location for the memorial and the receipt of sufficient funding, the commission would be responsible for overseeing the construction of the memorial.

The bill would also create a permanent COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund in the Department of Treasury. This fund would be the repository for any donations or appropriations provided for the design, construction, and maintenance of the COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Worker Memorial.