

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1016

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

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Assemblyman Schaer, Assemblywomen Mosquera and McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to study issues related to the establishment of full-day kindergarten.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on February 8, 2016, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/17/2016)

1 AN ACT establishing a Task Force on Full-Day Kindergarten.

2

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

5

6 1. a. There is established a Task Force on Full-Day
7 Kindergarten. The purpose of the task force is to study and
8 evaluate issues associated with the establishment of full-day
9 kindergarten.

10 b. The task force shall consist of the following ¹**[21]** 22¹
11 members:

12 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or his designee, who shall
13 serve ex officio;

14 (2) one member appointed by the President of the Senate and
15 one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, both
16 of whom shall be members of the public with demonstrated
17 expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force;

18 (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the General
19 Assembly and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
20 General Assembly, both of whom shall be members of the public
21 with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the
22 task force; and

23 (4) ¹**[16]** 17¹ members appointed by the Governor, who shall
24 include: three superintendents of schools, one each from an urban,
25 suburban, and rural school district; two elementary school
26 principals, one of whom is employed in a school district that
27 provides full-day kindergarten and one of whom is employed in a
28 school district that provides half-day kindergarten; two kindergarten
29 teachers, one of whom is employed in a school district that provides
30 full-day kindergarten and one of whom is employed in a school
31 district that provides half-day kindergarten; ¹one member upon the
32 recommendation of the New Jersey Child Care Association;¹ one
33 member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Education
34 Association; one member upon the recommendation of the
35 American Federation of Teachers New Jersey; one member upon
36 the recommendation of the New Jersey School Boards Association;
37 one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Principals
38 and Supervisors Association; one member upon the
39 recommendation of the New Jersey Association of School
40 Administrators; one member upon the recommendation of the
41 Garden State Coalition of Schools; and three members of the public
42 with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the
43 task force, at least one of whom shall be a parent.

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:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted February 8, 2016.

1 c. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
2 after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of
3 the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
4 appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve
5 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary
6 expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members
7 of the task force within the limits of funds appropriated or
8 otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

9
10 2. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable
11 following the appointment of its members, but no later than 60 days
12 after the effective date of this act. The task force shall choose a
13 chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a secretary
14 who need not be a member of the task force. The presence of 11
15 members of the task force shall constitute a quorum. The task force
16 may conduct business without a quorum, but may only vote on
17 recommendations when a quorum is present.

18
19 3. The Department of Education shall provide such
20 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such
21 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.
22 The task force also shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
23 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
24 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
25 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

26
27 4. The task force shall study and evaluate issues associated
28 with the establishment and implementation of full-day kindergarten
29 throughout the State, and make recommendations regarding the
30 establishment of full-day kindergarten. The task force shall study
31 and consider issues including, but not limited to, the following:

32 a. review of existing research, studies, and data concerning
33 full-day kindergarten, including studies that examine the long-term
34 academic impact of full-day kindergarten, and studies that examine
35 the social and emotional impact of full-day kindergarten;

36 b. implementation considerations associated with full-day
37 kindergarten including, but not limited to, staffing needs, facility
38 space, and class size;

39 c. funding necessary for the establishment of full-day
40 kindergarten, including possible sources of funding;

41 d. curriculum comparisons between full-day kindergarten and
42 half-day kindergarten;

43 e. opinions and recommendations of parents and elementary
44 school teachers regarding full-day kindergarten, both in support of,
45 and opposed to, full-day kindergarten; and

46 f. the feasibility of offering full-day kindergarten in school
47 districts Statewide.

- 1 5. a. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor,
2 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
3 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one year after the task force organizes.
4 The report shall contain the task force's findings and
5 recommendations regarding the establishment of full-day
6 kindergarten.
- 7 b. The task force shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its
8 final report.
- 9
- 10 6. This act shall take effect immediately.