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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

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Sponsored by:

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SYNOPSIS

Establishes Task Force on Underage Drinking in Higher Education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on January 26, 2009, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/14/2009)

1 AN ACT establishing the Task Force on Underage Drinking in
2 Higher Education.

3

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

6

7 1. a. There is established a task force to be known as the Task
8 Force on Underage Drinking in Higher Education. The task force
9 shall be comprised of '[20] 22'¹ members including: the Chairman
10 of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, or a designee;
11 the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control in the
12 Department of Law and Public Safety, or a designee; 'the Director
13 of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety in the Department of
14 Law and Public Safety, or a designee; the Director of the Division
15 of Addiction Services in the Department of Human Services, or a
16 designee;¹ and 18 members to be appointed by the Governor. The
17 gubernatorial appointments shall include: two college presidents;
18 four vice-presidents or administrators of student affairs representing
19 a county college, a State college established pursuant to chapter 64
20 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, an independent institution
21 of higher education, and a public research university; a chief of
22 police of a campus police force of an institution of higher education
23 in the State; a chief of police of a municipal police force that is
24 responsible for policing an institution of higher education in the
25 State; a director of a public safety department of an institution of
26 higher education in the State; a representative of the New Jersey
27 Prevention Network; a representative of the New Jersey chapter of
28 Mothers Against Drunk Driving; and two college students, two
29 representatives of the K-12 education community, two proprietors
30 of establishments that sell or serve alcoholic beverages on or in
31 close proximity to a college campus, and a member of the faculty of
32 an institution of higher education in the State who shall have
33 knowledge of and expertise in anti-underage drinking policies and
34 programs in the higher education setting.

35 b. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
36 of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of the
37 task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
38 appointments were made. The members shall serve without
39 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures
40 incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the task
41 force.

42 c. The task force shall organize as soon as may be practicable
43 after the appointment of its members and shall choose a chairperson
44 from among its members and shall appoint a secretary who need not

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 SED committee amendments adopted January 26, 2009.

1 be a member of the task force. For purposes of convening a task
2 force meeting, a quorum shall consist of six members; for purposes
3 of adopting task force recommendations, a majority of the total task
4 force membership shall be required.

5 d. The Commission on Higher Education shall provide such
6 stenographic, clerical and other administrative assistants, and such
7 professional staff, as the task force requires to carry out its work.
8 The task force shall also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
9 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or
10 municipal department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it
11 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

12

13 2. It shall be the duty of the task force to study and develop
14 recommendations regarding the most effective means of combating
15 the consumption of alcohol by underage persons in the higher
16 education setting. The task force shall:

17 a. prepare an inventory of all existing partnerships in the State
18 between institutions of higher education, law enforcement agencies,
19 and other stakeholders to combat and respond to incidents of
20 underage drinking in the higher education setting in order to assess
21 the current level of collaboration;

22 b. review promising partnerships in other states between
23 institutions of higher education, law enforcement agencies, and
24 other stakeholders that are undertaken to combat and respond to
25 incidents of underage drinking in the higher education setting and
26 identify those partnerships that could be effectively modeled in this
27 State;

28 c. review and compare the student alcohol policies of
29 institutions of higher education in the State, including a review of
30 sanctions for policy violations;

31 d. identify promising and innovative programs, practices, and
32 policies of institutions of higher education in the State which have
33 been implemented to combat underage drinking;

34 e. examine the use and impact of Good Samaritan policies, as
35 they relate to alcohol consumption, and which are already in place
36 at some of the State's institutions of higher education; and

37 f. study and review all aspects of State law relating to
38 underage drinking.

39

40 3. The task force shall issue a final report containing its
41 findings and recommendations, including any recommendations for
42 legislation that it deems appropriate, no later than six months after
43 the task force organizes, to the Governor, the President of the
44 Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly, and the Senate
45 and Assembly Education Committees, or the successor committees.

46

47 4. This act shall take effect immediately and the task force
48 shall expire on the 30th day after the issuance of its final report.