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SENATE, No. 685

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Fleet Conversion Task Force" in DEP.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Environment and Energy Committee on February 12, 2026, with amendments.



1 AN ACT establishing a "Fleet Conversion Task Force" in the
2 Department of Environmental Protection.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 (1) Commercial vehicle fleets play a vital role in the economy,
9 providing transportation and logistics support to virtually every
10 sector of the economy, including manufacturers, distributors,
11 agricultural and food service companies, and retailers;

12 (2) According to data published by the United States Department
13 of Transportation, there were approximately 12 million automobiles
14 and trucks in fleets on the road in 2013, comprising five percent of
15 all registered motor vehicles;

16 (3) Transitioning to zero-emissions vehicles is a cornerstone of
17 the State's plan to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to
18 the "Global Warming Response Act," P.L.2007, c.112 (C.26:2C-37
19 et seq.);

20 (4) This is because, in New Jersey, the transportation sector
21 emits 38 percent of the total Statewide greenhouse gas emissions,
22 according to the "2024 NJ Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory
23 Report Years 1990-2021," produced by the Department of
24 Environmental Protection;

25 (5) Thus, vehicle fleets are responsible for approximately two
26 percent of New Jersey's greenhouse gas emissions, in addition to
27 emitting other pollutants such as carbon monoxide, particulate
28 matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide; ¹**[and]**¹

29 (6) The Legislature and the Department of Environmental
30 Protection would benefit from the expertise and experience of
31 people working in the transportation sector as they develop and
32 implement policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from motor
33 vehicle fleets ¹; and

34 (7) Effective fleet policy must account for operational readiness,
35 service continuity, total cost of ownership, workforce impacts, and
36 the diversity of duty cycles across public and private fleets
37 operating in New Jersey¹.

38 b. The Legislature therefore determines that it is in the public
39 interest to create a Fleet Conversion Task Force to study and make
40 recommendations on the process of converting motor vehicle fleets
41 from fossil fuel-powered to zero-emission vehicles, and
42 ¹modernizing motor vehicle fleets through zero-emission, near zero-
43 emission, and other emission-reducing technologies, operational
44 efficiencies, and resilience strategies, consistent with¹ the State's

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 SEN committee amendments adopted February 12, 2026.

1 ¹**【policies to reduce】**¹ greenhouse gas ¹**【emissions from the**
2 **transportation sector】** reduction goals¹.

3

4 2. a. There is established in the Department of Environmental
5 Protection a Fleet Conversion Task Force. The duty of the task
6 force shall be to ¹:

7 (1)¹ study the challenges faced by commercial motor vehicle
8 fleet owners and operators in converting their fleets to zero
9 emission vehicles, including the fiscal impact on small businesses
10 ¹**【, to】** and impacts on fleet reliability, mission readiness, service
11 continuity, total cost of ownership and workforce and training
12 requirements for fleet operators;

13 (2)¹ coordinate with the necessary stakeholders to develop a
14 cost-effective ecosystem to support the transition to zero-emission
15 motor vehicle fleet; and ¹**【to】**

16 (3)¹ formulate recommendations for policy changes that could
17 ease compliance with any existing laws or policies, and
18 recommendations for new policies that could more effectively and
19 efficiently reduce greenhouse gas emissions from commercial motor
20 vehicles.

21 b. The task force shall be composed of 15 members, as follows:

22 (1) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or a
23 designee, who shall serve ex-officio as chair;

24 (2) the Commissioner of Transportation, or a designee, who shall
25 serve ex-officio as vice-chair;

26 (3) the President of the Board of Public Utilities, or a designee,
27 who shall serve ex-officio;

28 (4) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Transit
29 Corporation, or a designee, who shall serve ex-officio;

30 (5) the Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York
31 and New Jersey, or a designee, who shall serve ex-officio;

32 (6) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Economic
33 Development Authority, or a designee, who shall serve ex-officio;

34 (7) two members of the public, appointed by the Senate
35 President, with knowledge, expertise, or experience in zero-
36 emission vehicles, one of whom shall represent privately owned
37 fleets and one of whom shall represent publicly owned fleets;

38 (8) two members of the public, appointed by the Speaker of the
39 General Assembly, with knowledge, expertise, or experience in
40 zero-emission vehicles, one of whom shall represent privately
41 owned fleets and one of whom shall represent publicly owned
42 fleets; and

43 (9) five members of the public appointed by the Governor as
44 follows:

45 (a) one representative from an environmental justice
46 organization;

- 1 (b) one representative from a labor organization that represents
2 trucking workers or other workers involved with motor vehicle
3 fleets;
- 4 (c) two representatives of automotive original equipment
5 manufacturers, with experience in medium- and heavy-duty
6 vehicles, at least one of whom shall have 'direct' experience 'with
7 fleet deployment or fleet operation' in zero-emission medium- and
8 heavy-duty vehicles; and
- 9 (d) one representative of publicly owned fleets, with knowledge,
10 expertise, or experience in zero-emission vehicles.
- 11 c. The members of the task force shall be appointed no later than
12 90 days after the effective date of this act. The task force shall
13 organize as soon as practicable after the appointment of the task
14 force's members. The task force may appoint a secretary who need
15 not be part of the task force. The presence of eight members shall
16 constitute a quorum.
- 17 d. The task force shall meet regularly as the task force
18 determines or at the call of the chair. A true copy of the minutes of
19 each meeting of the task force shall be published and maintained on
20 the Department of Environmental Protection's Internet website. The
21 task force shall hold public hearings in various regions of the State
22 and shall solicit feedback from the following entities:
- 23 (1) public fleets, including county, city, electric utility, water
24 district, solid waste, wastewater, education, emergency, and law
25 enforcement fleets;
- 26 (2) regional trucking and drayage companies, small-, medium-
27 and large-sized business enterprises, national carriers operating in
28 New Jersey, and first and final mile e-commerce and air cargo
29 couriers;
- 30 (3) public and investor-owned utilities;
- 31 (4) class 1, 2, and 3 railroads, as applicable to New Jersey;
- 32 (5) producers of electric vehicle infrastructure;
- 33 (6) producers and sellers of petroleum products, biofuels, natural
34 gas, propane, and hydrogen;
- 35 (7) environmental organizations and environmental justice
36 advocates;
- 37 (8) labor organizations;
- 38 (9) the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission;
- 39 (10) automobile dealers, automotive original equipment
40 manufacturers, and manufacturers of internal combustion and
41 electric vehicles, including light-, medium-, and heavy-duty
42 vehicles; and
- 43 (11) local governments.
- 44 e. The members of the task force shall serve without
45 compensation, but the department may, within the limits of funds
46 appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force,
47 reimburse members for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the
48 discharge of their official duties.

1 f. Any vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be
2 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

3 g. The Department of Environmental Protection shall provide
4 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistance and
5 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out the task
6 force's work. The task force shall be entitled to call to the task
7 force's assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of
8 any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau,
9 commission, or agency as the task force may require and as may be
10 available for the task force's purposes. ¹Nothing in this section
11 shall be construed to limit or direct the independent advisory role of
12 the task force.¹

13 h. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations¹,
14 which shall include whether or not to extend the term of the task
15 force or convert the task force to a permanent fleet advisory
16 council,¹ to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
17 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than ¹**two years**
18 **18 months**¹ following the initial organizational meeting of the task
19 force. ¹The task force shall serve, during those 18 months, in an
20 advisory capacity to the Governor and the Legislature on fleet
21 modernization, transition, and implementation.¹ A written copy of
22 the task force's report shall be provided to the chair of the Senate
23 Environment and Energy Committee and the chair of the Assembly
24 Environment, Natural Resources and Solid Waste Committee, or
25 their successor committees.

26 i. Thirty days after the submission of the report required
27 pursuant to subsection h. of this section, the task force shall
28 dissolve.

29 ¹j. The task force may establish subcommittees as necessary to
30 examine specific issues, including, but not limited to, fleet
31 operations, infrastructure readiness, workforce and training needs,
32 fiscal impacts, and regional or sector-specific fleet considerations.¹

33

34 3. This act shall take effect immediately ¹**[,]**¹ and shall expire
35 30 days after the submission of the report required pursuant to
36 subsection h. of section ¹**[1]** ²2¹ of this act ¹,unless otherwise
37 provided by law, rule, or regulation¹.