

ASSEMBLY, No. 4555

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

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Sponsored by:

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District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

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SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Fleet Conversion Task Force” in DEP.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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; and

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.

34 b. The Legislature therefore determines that it is in the public
35 interest to create a Fleet Conversion Task Force to study and make
36 recommendations on the process of converting motor vehicle fleets
37 from fossil fuel-powered to zero-emission vehicles, and the State’s
38 policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation
39 sector.

40

41 2. a. There is established in the Department of Environmental
42 Protection a Fleet Conversion Task Force. The duty of the task
43 force shall be to study the challenges faced by commercial motor
44 vehicle fleet owners and operators in converting their fleets to zero
45 emission vehicles, including the fiscal impact on small businesses,
46 to coordinate with the necessary stakeholders to develop a cost-
47 effective ecosystem to support the transition to zero-emission motor
48 vehicle fleets; and to formulate recommendations for policy

1 changes that could ease compliance with any existing laws or
2 policies, and recommendations for new policies that could more
3 effectively and efficiently reduce greenhouse gas emissions from
4 commercial motor vehicles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (8) two members of the public, appointed by the Speaker of the
23 General Assembly, with knowledge, expertise, or experience in
24 zero-emission vehicles, one of whom shall represent privately
25 owned fleets and one of whom shall represent publicly owned
26 fleets; and

27 (9) five members of the public appointed by the Governor as
28 follows:

29 (a) one representative from an environmental justice
30 organization;

31 (b) one representative from a labor organization that represents
32 trucking workers or other workers involved with motor vehicle
33 fleets;

34 (c) two representatives of automotive original equipment
35 manufacturers, with experience in medium- and heavy-duty
36 vehicles, at least one of whom shall have experience in zero-
37 emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles; and

38 (d) one representative of publicly owned fleets, with knowledge,
39 expertise, or experience in zero-emission vehicles.

40 c. The members of the task force shall be appointed no later than
41 90 days after the effective date of this act. The task force shall
42 organize as soon as practicable after the appointment of the task
43 force's members. The task force may appoint a secretary who need
44 not be part of the task force. The presence of eight members shall
45 constitute a quorum.

46 d. The task force shall meet regularly as the task force
47 determines or at the call of the chair. A true copy of the minutes of
48 each meeting of the task force shall be published and maintained on

1 the Department of Environmental Protection's Internet website.
2 The task force shall hold public hearings in various regions of the
3 State and shall solicit feedback from the following entities:

4 (1) public fleets, including county, city, electric utility, water
5 district, solid waste, wastewater, education, emergency, and law
6 enforcement fleets;

7 (2) regional trucking and drayage companies, small-, medium-
8 and large-sized business enterprises, national carriers operating in
9 New Jersey, and first and final mile e-commerce and air cargo
10 couriers;

11 (3) public and investor-owned utilities;

12 (4) class 1, 2, and 3 railroads, as applicable to New Jersey;

13 (5) producers of electric vehicle infrastructure;

14 (6) producers and sellers of petroleum products, biofuels, natural
15 gas, propane, and hydrogen;

16 (7) environmental organizations and environmental justice
17 advocates;

18 (8) labor organizations;

19 (9) the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission;

20 (10) automobile dealers, automotive original equipment
21 manufacturers, and manufacturers of internal combustion and
22 electric vehicles, including light-, medium-, and heavy-duty
23 vehicles; and

24 (11) local governments.

25 e. The members of the task force shall serve without
26 compensation, but the department may, within the limits of funds
27 appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force,
28 reimburse members for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the
29 discharge of their official duties.

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

32 g. The Department of Environmental Protection shall provide
33 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistance and
34 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out the task
35 force's work. The task force shall be entitled to call to the task
36 force's assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees
37 of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau,
38 commission, or agency as the task force may require and as may be
39 available for the task force's purposes.

40 h. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations
41 to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
42 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than two years following
43 the initial organizational meeting of the task force. A written copy
44 of the task force's report shall be provided to the chair of the Senate
45 Environment and Energy Committee and the chair of the Assembly
46 Environment, Natural Resources and Solid Waste Committee, or
47 their successor committees.

1 i. Thirty days after the submission of the report required
2 pursuant to subsection h. of this section, the task force shall
3 dissolve.

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5 3. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire 30
6 days after the submission of the report required pursuant to
7 subsection h. of section 1 of this act.

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STATEMENT

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12 This bill would establish the “Fleet Conversion Task Force”
13 (task force) in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
14 The task force would provide a report to the Governor and
15 Legislature, no later than two years after its first meeting, on the
16 issue of converting commercial motor vehicle fleets to zero-
17 emission vehicles, after which it would dissolve.

18 The task force would be composed of 15 members: six ex-officio
19 members and nine members of the public appointed by the Senate
20 President, Speaker of the General Assembly, and Governor, as
21 enumerated in subsection b. of section 1 of the bill. The bill would
22 direct the task force to study the challenges faced by commercial
23 motor vehicle fleet owners and operators in converting their fleets
24 to zero emission vehicles, to coordinate with the necessary
25 stakeholders to develop a cost-effective ecosystem to support the
26 transition to zero-emission motor vehicle fleets, and to formulate
27 recommendations for policy changes that could ease compliance
28 with any existing laws or policies, and recommendations for new
29 policies that could more effectively and efficiently reduce
30 greenhouse gas emissions from commercial motor vehicles.