

CHAPTER 136

AN ACT establishing the Task Force on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in the Department of Health.

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

1. a. There is established the Task Force on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in the Department of Health.

b. The purpose of the task force is to conduct an investigation on, and study strategies to promote public awareness about, the causes of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, in order to increase knowledge about the importance of early diagnosis and treatment, effective prevention strategies, and disease management. The task force shall:

(1) determine what existing resources are currently being utilized Statewide for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease;

(2) evaluate the effectiveness of treatment and prevention strategies currently in place for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the State;

(3) examine the current scientific base of knowledge concerning chronic obstructive pulmonary disease through surveillance, epidemiology, and research; and

(4) investigate the need for improving the quality and accessibility of existing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease-related community-based services.

2. a. The task force shall consist of eleven members as follows:

(1) The Commissioners of Health and Human Services, or their designees, as ex-officio members;

(2) One member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Senate President, and one member of the General Assembly, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

(3) two public members who represent the health care industry in the State of New Jersey, one of whom shall be appointed by the Senate President and one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and

(4) five public members appointed by the Governor as follows: one member who represents the American Lung Association in New Jersey; one member who has been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; one member who is a pulmonologist with experience in diagnosing persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; one member who is a respiratory therapist with experience in treating persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and one member who represents the health care industry in the State of New Jersey.

b. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. The members of the task force shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for any expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties, subject to the availability of funds.

c. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable after the appointment of its members and shall select a chairperson from among its members.

d. The Department of Health shall provide professional and clerical staff to the task force as necessary to carry out its duties.

e. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available to perform its duties.

f. The task force shall report to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on its findings, recommendations, and activities no later than one year after the organization of the task force.

3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon the issuance of the task force report.

Approved November 9, 2015.