

CHAPTER 40

AN ACT establishing a task force to study certain jewelry transactions and reporting systems.

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

1. a. There is established a task force to be known as the “Secondhand Valuables Transaction Reporting Task Force.” The purpose of the task force shall be to study and make recommendations on programs and systems to identify and track secondhand and used jewelry and precious metals acquired through theft and other deceptive practices in order to recover the jewelry and precious metals, return them to their rightful owners, and reduce attempts to steal and quickly sell jewelry and precious metals for liquid assets. The programs and systems to be evaluated shall include, but not be limited to, any program or system used by State, county, or municipal law enforcement before the date of enactment of P.L.2016, c.40.

The recommendations of the task force shall include a recommendation as to whether a uniform electronic State or county-wide program or system would improve reporting, tracking, and enforcement of laws concerning secondhand and used jewelry, watch, and precious metal transactions. In making this recommendation, consideration shall be given to the benefits and drawbacks for buyers, sellers, and law enforcement. The task force shall also make a recommendation with regard to implementing an industry-wide program or system in this State for all retailers involved in buying or selling secondhand jewelry, watches, or precious metals, including pawnbrokers and auctioneers.

b. The task force shall consist of 11 members, as follows:

- (1) the Attorney General or a designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- (2) the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, or a designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- (3) three county prosecutors, who shall each represent a county in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State, as recommended by the County Prosecutors’ Association of New Jersey;
- (4) three municipal law enforcement officers, who shall each represent a municipality in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State, appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police; and
- (5) three public members, appointed by the Governor. One public member shall be a jewelry retailer, wholesaler, or smelter in the business of purchasing used or secondhand jewelry; one public member shall be a person in the business of buying precious metals, registered pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1981, c.96 (C.51:6A-2); and one public member shall be a licensed pawnbroker.

c. All appointments to the task force shall be made within 60 days after the effective date of this act. Recommendations by the County Prosecutors’ Association of New Jersey shall be submitted to the Attorney General, in writing, within 45 days after the effective date of this act. Recommendations by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police shall be submitted to the Governor, in writing, within 45 days after the effective date of this act. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

d. The Attorney General shall serve as the chair and the superintendent shall serve as vice chair of the task force. The chair shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

e. The members of the task force shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed, within the limits of funds made available to the task force, for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

f. The chair shall call an initial meeting of the task force within 30 days of the appointment of a majority of its members and hold hearings at the times and in the places it may deem appropriate and necessary to fulfill its charge.

g. 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 it for its purposes. The task force may seek the advice of experts as deemed appropriate by the membership of the task force.

h. The task force shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations, which shall be submitted to the Governor and to the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C:52:14-19.1), no later than six months after the initial meeting of the task force, pursuant to subsection f. of this section.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon submission of the task force's report to the Governor and Legislature pursuant to subsection h. of section 1 of this act.

Approved August 31, 2016.