

CHAPTER 92

AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Food Waste Task Force.

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

1. a. There is established in the Department of Human Services the New Jersey Food Waste Task Force, which shall be responsible for identifying and examining the factors that lead to food waste in the State, and identifying strategies, policies, and legislative and executive actions that may be used to:

- (1) prevent food waste;
- (2) increase food donations;
- (3) provide consumers with education on food storage;
- (4) lower unreasonably high cosmetic standards for fruit and vegetables;
- (5) cease or significantly reduce the rejection of even marginally imperfect-looking food;
- (6) build Statewide systems to distribute surplus edible food to charities;
- (7) eliminate unnecessary State statutes or regulations that contribute to food waste; and
- (8) modify “best by” food labels, consistent with uniform national standards, to inform consumers of the latest possible date food can be safely consumed.

The work undertaken by the task force shall supplement and be consistent with existing efforts and commitments to reduce food waste, including food donation efforts, composting efforts, date labeling efforts, and effective inventory management practices, which have been, or are being, undertaken at the national level pursuant to a uniform, nationwide model.

b. The task force shall consist of 14 members, including the Commissioner of Human Services, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or their designees, who shall serve *ex officio*; and 11 public members, who shall be appointed as follows: (1) one representative each from four major food retailers, two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; (2) three public members appointed by the Governor, with one member to be appointed upon recommendation by the President of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, one member to be appointed upon recommendation by the Director of Hunger Free New Jersey, and one member to be appointed upon recommendation by the President of the New Jersey Food Council; and (3) four private citizens with relevant expertise in food waste issues or food management practices, two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

c. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled as provided for the original appointments.

d. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable following the appointment of its members, and shall select a chairperson from among its membership. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

e. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the task force, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

f. 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.

g. The Department of Human Services shall provide staff support to the task force.

h. No later than one year after organization, the task force shall submit to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a report of its findings

and recommendations for legislative, executive, or other action as may be appropriate to reduce food waste in this State. The task force shall expire upon submission of its report.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved May 9, 2019.