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RH/CL

P.L. 2017, CHAPTER 342, *approved January 16, 2018*
Senate, No. 3607

1 AN ACT concerning aphasia and amending P.L.2017, c.55.

2

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

5

6 1. Section 2 of P.L.2017, c.55 (C.26:2ZZ-2) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 2. a. There is established, in the Department of Health, the
9 "Mike Adler Aphasia Task Force."

10 b. The task force shall consist of 13 members as follows:

11 (1) the Commissioners of Health and Human Services, who
12 shall serve ex officio;

13 (2) five representatives from the State's **[model]** aphasia
14 support and treatment programs, including one representative from
15 the non-profit Adler Aphasia Center; one representative from the
16 Kean University Institute for Adults Living with Communication
17 Disabilities; one representative from the **[private speech-language**
18 **pathology practice, Speaking of Aphasia]** Comprehensive Stroke
19 Center at Hackensack University Medical Center; one
20 representative from the medically-based support group, JFK-
21 Johnson Rehabilitation Institute; and one representative from the
22 private aphasia practice, Lingraphica; and

23 (3) six public members to be appointed as follows: two public
24 members to be appointed by the Senate President, one of whom
25 shall be a person with aphasia, and one of whom shall be a
26 professional who provides caregiving services to persons with
27 aphasia; two public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
28 General Assembly, one of whom shall be a person with aphasia, and
29 one of whom shall be a professional who provides speech-language
30 pathology services to persons with aphasia; and two public
31 members to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a
32 professional who provides caregiving services to persons with
33 aphasia, and one of whom shall be a professional who provides
34 speech-language pathology services to persons with aphasia.

35 c. Each public member of the task force shall serve for a term
36 of five years, except that, of the members first appointed, the first
37 two appointees shall serve for terms of five years, the second two
38 appointees shall serve for terms of four years, and the third two
39 appointees shall serve for terms of three years. Each member shall
40 hold office for the term of appointment, and until their successor is
41 appointed and qualified.

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.

1 d. Any vacancy in the task force membership shall be filled for
2 the unexpired term, in the same manner provided for the original
3 appointment. Members are eligible for reappointment to the task
4 force.

5 e. The purpose of the task force shall be to: monitor the
6 prevalence of aphasia in New Jersey; assess the unmet needs of
7 persons with aphasia, and their families; identify, and facilitate the
8 establishment of, aphasia support groups and other support and
9 informational resources designed to assist in satisfying the unmet
10 needs of residents with aphasia, and their families; and provide
11 recommendations to the Governor and Legislature, in accordance
12 with the provisions of subsection **[i.]** k. of this section, for
13 legislation or other governmental action that would further facilitate
14 the support of persons with aphasia, and their families. In
15 effectuating its purposes under this act, the task force shall:

16 (1) establish, or encourage and facilitate the establishment of,
17 new aphasia support groups in senior centers, Federally Qualified
18 Health Centers, county offices for the disabled, county offices on
19 aging, and libraries throughout the State, with a focus on improving
20 access to aphasia support services in areas of the State that have
21 significant senior and minority populations;

22 (2) provide orientation programs for speech language
23 pathologists and caregivers who are interested in volunteering to
24 facilitate the operation of new aphasia support groups established
25 under paragraph (1) of this subsection;

26 (3) encourage all universities in the State with graduate-level
27 programs in speech-language pathology to offer aphasia support
28 groups to members of the public;

29 (4) coordinate the operations of aphasia support groups in the
30 State, in order to facilitate the Statewide sharing of data and
31 resources, and the adoption of collaborative efforts designed to
32 provide support and treatment to persons with aphasia, and their
33 families;

34 (5) create various focus groups that engage persons with
35 aphasia, aphasia support group staff, and aphasia caregivers and
36 speech-language pathologists, for the purposes of assessing and
37 highlighting the region-by-region needs of persons with aphasia,
38 and their families;

39 (6) encourage hospitals in the State to distribute information
40 about aphasia, upon patient discharge, to patients who have had a
41 stroke or head injury, and provide hospitals with appropriate
42 pamphlets or other documentation, such as the informational
43 materials that are available from the National Aphasia Association
44 (NAA), the American Stroke Association (ASA), or the American
45 Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), for the purposes of
46 distribution to such patients;

47 (7) establish, at a publicly accessible location on the Internet
48 website of the Department of Health, a webpage dedicated to

1 aphasia, which shall include relevant information on aphasia, and
2 contact information for the available aphasia support groups in the
3 State;

4 (8) compile, and post on the aphasia webpage established under
5 paragraph (7) of this subsection, a registry of counselors and
6 psychologists in the State who are available to work with persons
7 with aphasia, and their families;

8 (9) explore, document, and list on the aphasia webpage
9 established under paragraph (7) of this subsection, any funding
10 sources that are available for post-acute services provided to
11 persons with aphasia in the chronic phase;

12 (10) create an aphasia-friendly newsletter, which shall be
13 designed to provide persons with aphasia, caregivers, and
14 professionals with updated information about new developments in
15 the treatment of aphasia, and which shall be posted on the aphasia
16 webpage established under paragraph (7) of this subsection, and
17 disseminated to appropriate support, treatment, and educational
18 groups, and to persons with aphasia, on a quarterly basis;

19 (11) coordinate with the State's county agencies on aging and
20 county agencies for the disabled; supply each county agency with
21 listings and descriptions of aphasia services and support groups
22 available in their area; and encourage each agency to provide
23 information about these services and support groups to their clients;
24 and

25 (12) enlist persons with aphasia in the chronic phase to instruct
26 first responders, medical personnel, vendors, and others in their
27 respective communities about the needs and abilities of persons
28 with aphasia, and the needs of their families and caregivers; and
29 provide appropriate assistance to these instructors.

30 **[d.] f.** The task force shall organize as soon as practicable after
31 the appointment of a majority of its members, and may meet and
32 hold hearings at such places and times as it shall designate.

33 **[e.] g.** The members of the task force shall serve without
34 compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other necessary
35 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within the
36 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
37 force for its purposes.

38 **[f.] h.** The Department of Health shall provide professional and
39 clerical staff to the task force as may be necessary for the task
40 force's purposes, and the task force shall also be entitled to call
41 upon the services of any State, county, or municipal department,
42 board, commission, or agency, as may be available to it for its
43 purposes.

44 **[g.] i.** In executing its duties under this act, the task force shall
45 consult with associations, organizations, and individuals who are
46 knowledgeable about the needs of persons with aphasia, and their
47 families.

SENATE, No. 3607

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 7, 2017

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator ROBERT M. GORDON

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Amends Mike Adler Aphasia Task Force law to provide term lengths, address vacancies, and replace obsolete task force member.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/9/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning aphasia and amending P.L.2017, c.55.

2

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

5

6 1. Section 2 of P.L.2017, c.55 (C.26:2ZZ-2) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 2. a. There is established, in the Department of Health, the
9 "Mike Adler Aphasia Task Force."

10 b. The task force shall consist of 13 members as follows:

11 (1) the Commissioners of Health and Human Services, who
12 shall serve ex officio;

13 (2) five representatives from the State's **【model】** aphasia
14 support and treatment programs, including one representative from
15 the non-profit Adler Aphasia Center; one representative from the
16 Kean University Institute for Adults Living with Communication
17 Disabilities; one representative from the **【private speech-language**
18 **pathology practice, Speaking of Aphasia】** Comprehensive Stroke
19 Center at Hackensack University Medical Center; one
20 representative from the medically-based support group, JFK-
21 Johnson Rehabilitation Institute; and one representative from the
22 private aphasia practice, Lingraphica; and

23 (3) six public members to be appointed as follows: two public
24 members to be appointed by the Senate President, one of whom
25 shall be a person with aphasia, and one of whom shall be a
26 professional who provides caregiving services to persons with
27 aphasia; two public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
28 General Assembly, one of whom shall be a person with aphasia, and
29 one of whom shall be a professional who provides speech-language
30 pathology services to persons with aphasia; and two public
31 members to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a
32 professional who provides caregiving services to persons with
33 aphasia, and one of whom shall be a professional who provides
34 speech-language pathology services to persons with aphasia.

35 c. Each public member of the task force shall serve for a term
36 of five years, except that, of the members first appointed, the first
37 two appointees shall serve for terms of five years, the second two
38 appointees shall serve for terms of four years, and the third two
39 appointees shall serve for terms of three years. Each member shall
40 hold office for the term of appointment, and until their successor is
41 appointed and qualified.

42 d. Any vacancy in the task force membership shall be filled for
43 the unexpired term, in the same manner provided for the original
44 appointment. Members are eligible for reappointment to the task
45 force.

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.

1 e. The purpose of the task force shall be to: monitor the
2 prevalence of aphasia in New Jersey; assess the unmet needs of
3 persons with aphasia, and their families; identify, and facilitate the
4 establishment of, aphasia support groups and other support and
5 informational resources designed to assist in satisfying the unmet
6 needs of residents with aphasia, and their families; and provide
7 recommendations to the Governor and Legislature, in accordance
8 with the provisions of subsection **[i.]** k. of this section, for
9 legislation or other governmental action that would further facilitate
10 the support of persons with aphasia, and their families. In
11 effectuating its purposes under this act, the task force shall:

12 (1) establish, or encourage and facilitate the establishment of,
13 new aphasia support groups in senior centers, Federally Qualified
14 Health Centers, county offices for the disabled, county offices on
15 aging, and libraries throughout the State, with a focus on improving
16 access to aphasia support services in areas of the State that have
17 significant senior and minority populations;

18 (2) provide orientation programs for speech language
19 pathologists and caregivers who are interested in volunteering to
20 facilitate the operation of new aphasia support groups established
21 under paragraph (1) of this subsection;

22 (3) encourage all universities in the State with graduate-level
23 programs in speech-language pathology to offer aphasia support
24 groups to members of the public;

25 (4) coordinate the operations of aphasia support groups in the
26 State, in order to facilitate the Statewide sharing of data and
27 resources, and the adoption of collaborative efforts designed to
28 provide support and treatment to persons with aphasia, and their
29 families;

30 (5) create various focus groups that engage persons with
31 aphasia, aphasia support group staff, and aphasia caregivers and
32 speech-language pathologists, for the purposes of assessing and
33 highlighting the region-by-region needs of persons with aphasia,
34 and their families;

35 (6) encourage hospitals in the State to distribute information
36 about aphasia, upon patient discharge, to patients who have had a
37 stroke or head injury, and provide hospitals with appropriate
38 pamphlets or other documentation, such as the informational
39 materials that are available from the National Aphasia Association
40 (NAA), the American Stroke Association (ASA), or the American
41 Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), for the purposes of
42 distribution to such patients;

43 (7) establish, at a publicly accessible location on the Internet
44 website of the Department of Health, a webpage dedicated to
45 aphasia, which shall include relevant information on aphasia, and
46 contact information for the available aphasia support groups in the
47 State;

1 (8) compile, and post on the aphasia webpage established under
2 paragraph (7) of this subsection, a registry of counselors and
3 psychologists in the State who are available to work with persons
4 with aphasia, and their families;

5 (9) explore, document, and list on the aphasia webpage
6 established under paragraph (7) of this subsection, any funding
7 sources that are available for post-acute services provided to
8 persons with aphasia in the chronic phase;

9 (10) create an aphasia-friendly newsletter, which shall be
10 designed to provide persons with aphasia, caregivers, and
11 professionals with updated information about new developments in
12 the treatment of aphasia, and which shall be posted on the aphasia
13 webpage established under paragraph (7) of this subsection, and
14 disseminated to appropriate support, treatment, and educational
15 groups, and to persons with aphasia, on a quarterly basis;

16 (11) coordinate with the State's county agencies on aging and
17 county agencies for the disabled; supply each county agency with
18 listings and descriptions of aphasia services and support groups
19 available in their area; and encourage each agency to provide
20 information about these services and support groups to their clients;
21 and

22 (12) enlist persons with aphasia in the chronic phase to instruct
23 first responders, medical personnel, vendors, and others in their
24 respective communities about the needs and abilities of persons
25 with aphasia, and the needs of their families and caregivers; and
26 provide appropriate assistance to these instructors.

27 **[d.]** f. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable after
28 the appointment of a majority of its members, and may meet and
29 hold hearings at such places and times as it shall designate.

30 **[e.]** g. The members of the task force shall serve without
31 compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other necessary
32 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within the
33 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
34 force for its purposes.

35 **[f.]** h. The Department of Health shall provide professional and
36 clerical staff to the task force as may be necessary for the task
37 force's purposes, and the task force shall also be entitled to call
38 upon the services of any State, county, or municipal department,
39 board, commission, or agency, as may be available to it for its
40 purposes.

41 **[g.]** i. In executing its duties under this act, the task force shall
42 consult with associations, organizations, and individuals who are
43 knowledgeable about the needs of persons with aphasia, and their
44 families.

45 **[h.]** j. The task force may solicit and receive grants and other
46 funds that are made available for the task force's purposes by any
47 governmental, public, private, not-for-profit, or for-profit agency,

1 including funds that are made available under any federal or State
2 law, regulation, or program.

3 **[i.]** k. Within 12 months after the task force's organizational
4 meeting, and at least biennially thereafter, the task force shall
5 submit a written report to the Governor, and, pursuant to section 2
6 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature. Each report
7 submitted pursuant to this subsection shall contain the task force's
8 findings on the prevalence of aphasia in the State, information as to
9 the status and success of existing aphasia support services in the
10 State, and any recommendations for legislative or other action that
11 may be necessary to address the unmet needs of persons with
12 aphasia and their families.
13 (cf: P.L.2017, c.55, s.2)

14

15 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

16

17

STATEMENT

18

19 This bill would make corrections to the Mike Adler Aphasia
20 Task Force law that was enacted in May 2017. Specifically, the bill
21 would add provisions that: (1) identify the terms of service for
22 public members of the task force; and (2) provide instructions for
23 handling vacancies in the membership. These boilerplate
24 provisions were erroneously omitted from the law, as enacted.

25 In addition, the bill would slightly alter the membership of the
26 task force by removing the member who represents the
27 organization, Speaking of Aphasia, and replacing that member with
28 a representative from the Comprehensive Stroke Center at
29 Hackensack University Medical Center. This change is necessary
30 because Speaking of Aphasia is no longer in operation.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5326

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 18, 2017

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Amends Mike Adler Aphasia Task Force law to provide term lengths, address vacancies, and replace obsolete task force member.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A5326 VAINIERI HUTTLE

2

1 AN ACT concerning aphasia and amending P.L.2017, c.55.

2

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16 Kean University Institute for Adults Living with Communication
17 Disabilities; one representative from the **【private speech-language**
18 **pathology practice, Speaking of Aphasia】** Comprehensive Stroke
19 Center at Hackensack University Medical Center; one
20 representative from the medically-based support group, JFK-
21 Johnson Rehabilitation Institute; and one representative from the
22 private aphasia practice, Lingraphica; and

23 (3) six public members to be appointed as follows: two public
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25 shall be a person with aphasia, and one of whom shall be a
26 professional who provides caregiving services to persons with
27 aphasia; two public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
28 General Assembly, one of whom shall be a person with aphasia, and
29 one of whom shall be a professional who provides speech-language
30 pathology services to persons with aphasia; and two public
31 members to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a
32 professional who provides caregiving services to persons with
33 aphasia, and one of whom shall be a professional who provides
34 speech-language pathology services to persons with aphasia.

35 c. Each public member of the task force shall serve for a term
36 of five years, except that, of the members first appointed, the first
37 two appointees shall serve for terms of five years, the second two
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42 d. Any vacancy in the task force membership shall be filled for
43 the unexpired term, in the same manner provided for the original
44 appointment. Members are eligible for reappointment to the task
45 force.

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2 prevalence of aphasia in New Jersey; assess the unmet needs of
3 persons with aphasia, and their families; identify, and facilitate the
4 establishment of, aphasia support groups and other support and
5 informational resources designed to assist in satisfying the unmet
6 needs of residents with aphasia, and their families; and provide
7 recommendations to the Governor and Legislature, in accordance
8 with the provisions of subsection **[i.]** k. of this section, for
9 legislation or other governmental action that would further facilitate
10 the support of persons with aphasia, and their families. In
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14 Health Centers, county offices for the disabled, county offices on
15 aging, and libraries throughout the State, with a focus on improving
16 access to aphasia support services in areas of the State that have
17 significant senior and minority populations;

18 (2) provide orientation programs for speech language
19 pathologists and caregivers who are interested in volunteering to
20 facilitate the operation of new aphasia support groups established
21 under paragraph (1) of this subsection;

22 (3) encourage all universities in the State with graduate-level
23 programs in speech-language pathology to offer aphasia support
24 groups to members of the public;

25 (4) coordinate the operations of aphasia support groups in the
26 State, in order to facilitate the Statewide sharing of data and
27 resources, and the adoption of collaborative efforts designed to
28 provide support and treatment to persons with aphasia, and their
29 families;

30 (5) create various focus groups that engage persons with
31 aphasia, aphasia support group staff, and aphasia caregivers and
32 speech-language pathologists, for the purposes of assessing and
33 highlighting the region-by-region needs of persons with aphasia,
34 and their families;

35 (6) encourage hospitals in the State to distribute information
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37 stroke or head injury, and provide hospitals with appropriate
38 pamphlets or other documentation, such as the informational
39 materials that are available from the National Aphasia Association
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41 Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), for the purposes of
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4 with aphasia, and their families;

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7 sources that are available for post-acute services provided to
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10 designed to provide persons with aphasia, caregivers, and
11 professionals with updated information about new developments in
12 the treatment of aphasia, and which shall be posted on the aphasia
13 webpage established under paragraph (7) of this subsection, and
14 disseminated to appropriate support, treatment, and educational
15 groups, and to persons with aphasia, on a quarterly basis;

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17 county agencies for the disabled; supply each county agency with
18 listings and descriptions of aphasia services and support groups
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20 information about these services and support groups to their clients;
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24 respective communities about the needs and abilities of persons
25 with aphasia, and the needs of their families and caregivers; and
26 provide appropriate assistance to these instructors.

27 **[d.]** f. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable after
28 the appointment of a majority of its members, and may meet and
29 hold hearings at such places and times as it shall designate.

30 **[e.]** g. The members of the task force shall serve without
31 compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other necessary
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33 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
34 force for its purposes.

35 **[f.]** h. The Department of Health shall provide professional and
36 clerical staff to the task force as may be necessary for the task
37 force's purposes, and the task force shall also be entitled to call
38 upon the services of any State, county, or municipal department,
39 board, commission, or agency, as may be available to it for its
40 purposes.

41 **[g.]** i. In executing its duties under this act, the task force shall
42 consult with associations, organizations, and individuals who are
43 knowledgeable about the needs of persons with aphasia, and their
44 families.

45 **[h.]** j. The task force may solicit and receive grants and other
46 funds that are made available for the task force's purposes by any
47 governmental, public, private, not-for-profit, or for-profit agency,

1 including funds that are made available under any federal or State
2 law, regulation, or program.

3 **[i.]** k. Within 12 months after the task force's organizational
4 meeting, and at least biennially thereafter, the task force shall
5 submit a written report to the Governor, and, pursuant to section 2
6 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature. Each report
7 submitted pursuant to this subsection shall contain the task force's
8 findings on the prevalence of aphasia in the State, information as to
9 the status and success of existing aphasia support services in the
10 State, and any recommendations for legislative or other action that
11 may be necessary to address the unmet needs of persons with
12 aphasia and their families.
13 (cf: P.L.2017, c.55, s.2)

14

15 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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This bill would make corrections to the Mike Adler Aphasia Task Force law that was enacted in May 2017. Specifically, the bill would add provisions that: (1) identify the terms of service for public members of the task force; and (2) provide instructions for handling vacancies in the membership. These boilerplate provisions were erroneously omitted from the law, as enacted.

In addition, the bill would slightly alter the membership of the task force by removing the member who represents the organization, Speaking of Aphasia, and replacing that member with a representative from the Comprehensive Stroke Center at Hackensack University Medical Center. This change is necessary because Speaking of Aphasia is no longer in operation.