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# Committee Meeting

of

## NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE SELECT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

*“The Committee will meet to consider a Committee resolution regarding such action as is necessary to further the Committee’s responsibilities pursuant to SCR-148 (1R)”*

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**LOCATION:** Committee Room 4  
State House Annex  
Trenton, New Jersey

**DATE:** November 8, 2018  
10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:**

Senator Loretta Weinberg, Co-Chair  
Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin, Co-Chair  
Senator Kristin M. Corrado, Co-Vice Chair  
Assemblywoman Nancy F. Muñoz, Co-Vice Chair  
Senator Sandra B. Cunningham  
Senator Fred H. Madden, Jr.  
Senator M. Teresa Ruiz  
Senator Steven V. Oroho  
Assemblyman Gordon M. Johnson  
Assemblywoman Pamela R. Lampitt  
Assemblywoman Angela V. McKnight  
Assemblywoman Nancy J. Pinkin  
Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson  
Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce



**ALSO PRESENT:**

Rosemary Alito, Esq.  
Michael Critchley, Sr., Esq.  
Joseph A. Hayden, Jr., Esq.  
*Special Counsels*

Stephanie M. Wozunk  
*Office of Legislative Services  
Committee Aide*

Alison Accettola  
*Senate Majority*  
Brian Quigley  
*Assembly Majority  
Committee Aides*

Michael R. Molimock  
*Senate Republican*  
Kevin Logan  
*Assembly Republican  
Committee Aides*

*Hearing Recorded and Transcribed by  
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,  
Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey*

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LORETTA WEINBERG  
Co-Chairwoman  
ELIANA PINTOR MARIN  
Co-Chairwoman

KRISTIN M. CORRADO  
Co-Vice Chairwoman  
NANCY F. MUNOZ  
Co-Vice Chairwoman

SANDRA E. CUNNINGHAM  
FRED H. MADDEN JR.  
TERESA M. RUIZ  
STEVEN V. OROHO

GORDON M. JOHNSON  
PAMELA R. LAMPITT  
ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT  
NANCY J. PINKIN  
VERLINA REYNOLDS JACKSON  
BETTYLOU DECROCE  
HOLLY T. SCHEPISI



**New Jersey State Legislature**  
**NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE SELECT OVERSIGHT**  
**COMMITTEE**  
STATE HOUSE ANNEX  
PO BOX 068  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0068

STEPHANIE M. WOZUNK  
DAVID LORETTE  
Office of Legislative Services  
Committee Aides  
(609) 847-3890  
(609) 777-2998 fax

**COMMITTEE NOTICE**

**TO:** MEMBERS OF THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE SELECT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**FROM:** SENATOR LORETTA WEINBERG, CO-CHAIRWOMAN  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN ELIANA PINTOR MARIN, CO-CHAIRWOMAN

**SUBJECT:** COMMITTEE MEETING - NOVEMBER 8, 2018

*The public may address comments and questions to Stephanie M. Wozunk, David Lorette, Committee Aides, or make bill status and scheduling inquiries to Kristi L. Cannella, Secretary, at (609)847-3890, fax (609)777-2998, (609)847-3855, fax (609)292-0561 or e-mail: OLSAideLSO@njleg.org. Written and electronic comments, questions and testimony submitted to the committee by the public, as well as recordings and transcripts, if any, of oral testimony, are government records and will be available to the public upon request.*

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**The New Jersey Legislative Select Oversight Committee will meet on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 10:00 AM in Committee Room 4, 1st Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, New Jersey.**

**The committee will meet to consider a committee resolution regarding such action as is necessary to further the committee's responsibilities pursuant to SCR-148 (1R).**

Issued 11/2/18

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For changes in schedule due to snow or other emergencies, see website <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us> or call 800-792-8630 (toll-free in NJ) or 609-847-3905.

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 148**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED OCTOBER 29, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO**

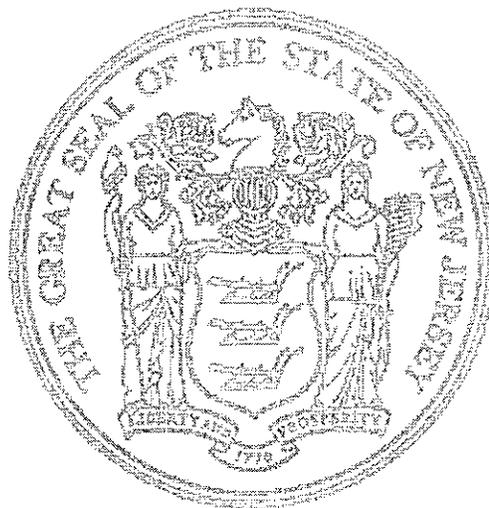
**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Constitutes special committee of Senate and General Assembly entitled  
"New Jersey Legislative Select Oversight Committee."

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



SCR148 WEINBERG, CORRADO

2

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** constituting a special committee of  
2 the Senate and General Assembly entitled the "New Jersey  
3 Legislative Select Oversight Committee."  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Gubernatorial transition office employees are, in fact,  
6 employees of the State of New Jersey; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Recent newspaper accounts have given rise to  
8 allegations of sexual misconduct by a government official who  
9 was a member of the Governor's transition team and was  
10 subsequently hired to serve in the Governor's administration (the  
11 "Government Official"), and the review of the matter by the  
12 Hudson County Prosecutor; and

13 **WHEREAS**, It has been asserted that other individuals who have held  
14 positions with the Governor's transition team or administration  
15 have previously engaged in conduct that may be unbecoming of  
16 officials in the public sector; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The Legislature, as a co-equal branch of government, has  
18 an oversight responsibility to undertake a review of the State's  
19 policies and procedures that address these issues and to consider  
20 improvements thereto; and

21 **WHEREAS**, A State legislative committee would be able to make  
22 recommendations for stronger laws that have greater clarity and  
23 provide for additional safeguards that ensure survivors are  
24 treated with dignity and respect and that laws exist that properly  
25 address labor, hiring recusal, and conflict issues; and

26 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting for the Legislature, through an appropriate  
27 committee, to investigate and act upon all aspects of these matters;  
28 now, therefore,  
29

30 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the  
31 General Assembly concurring):  
32

33 1. There is constituted a special committee of the Senate and  
34 General Assembly entitled the "New Jersey Legislative Select  
35 Oversight Committee," comprised of 15 members. Six members  
36 shall be appointed by the Senate President, not more than four of  
37 whom shall be of the same political party. Nine members shall be  
38 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, not more than  
39 six of whom shall be of the same political party. There shall be two  
40 co-chairs of the special committee appointed jointly by the Senate  
41 President and Assembly Speaker from among the appointed  
42 members. There shall be two vice co-chairs of the special  
43 committee, who shall not be members of the same political party as  
44 the co-chairs, appointed jointly by the Senate President and  
45 Assembly Speaker from among the appointed members.  
46

47 2. The New Jersey Legislative Select Oversight Committee  
48 shall review: a. the appropriateness of the Hudson County

1 Prosecutor's actions to oversee the handling of the certain  
2 allegations of sexual assault by the Government Official and b. all  
3 aspects of the policies and procedures regarding the screening of  
4 prospective employees and continued employment in the public  
5 sector of persons with questionable backgrounds, including any  
6 operations or practices concerning the handling of claims of sexual  
7 assault, abuse, or harassment. The committee shall issue a report  
8 of its findings and make recommendations on potential  
9 improvements to create meaningful policy changes, including  
10 possible recommendations regarding eligibility and screening for  
11 public sector employees, including senior level employees.  
12

13 3. For the purposes of carrying out its charge under this  
14 resolution, the New Jersey Legislative Select Oversight Committee  
15 shall have all the powers conferred under the laws and the  
16 Constitutions of the State of New Jersey and of the United States,  
17 including, but not limited to, the following powers, provided that no  
18 subpoena shall be issued by the committee without the written  
19 consent of both co-chairs, both vice co-chairs, the President of the  
20 Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly:

21 a. the powers conferred pursuant to chapter 13 of Title 52 of  
22 the Revised Statutes, including, but not limited to, the power to  
23 issue subpoenas to compel attendance and testimony of persons and  
24 the production of books, papers, correspondence, other documents  
25 and materials, and electronic records and data;

26 b. to hold hearings, take testimony under oath, and receive  
27 documentary or physical evidence relating to the matters and  
28 questions it is authorized to investigate or study;

29 c. to use any and all reasonable means of interviewing or fact  
30 gathering, including, but not limited to, preliminary conferences or  
31 interviews;

32 d. to convene a meeting or hearing to determine the adequacy  
33 of the return and rule on the objection if a return on a subpoena or  
34 order for the production of documentary evidence is incomplete or  
35 accompanied by an objection;

36 e. to utilize the powers provided under R.S.52:13-3 or hold  
37 individuals or entities in contempt of the committee;

38 f. to make findings and reports to the Senate and General  
39 Assembly of any recommendations, including recommendations for  
40 enforcement, that the committee may consider appropriate with  
41 respect to the willful failure or refusal of any person to appear  
42 before it, to answer questions or give testimony during an  
43 appearance of that person as a witness, or to produce before the  
44 committee any books, papers, correspondence, other documents and  
45 materials, and electronic records and data that the committee may  
46 request.

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1 g. to respond to any judicial or other process, or to make  
2 application to the courts of this State, or any other state, or the  
3 United States;

4 h. to report possible violations of any law, rule, regulation, or  
5 code to appropriate federal, State, or local authorities; and

6 i. to adopt additional rules or procedures not inconsistent with  
7 this resolution.

8

9 4. a. The New Jersey Legislative Select Oversight Committee  
10 shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the  
11 services of the employees of the State of New Jersey, any political  
12 subdivision of the State, and any agency thereof, as may be required  
13 and as may be available for that purpose, and to employ any other  
14 services as may be deemed necessary, in order to perform the duties  
15 provided herein, and within the limits of funds appropriated or  
16 otherwise made available for that purpose.

17 b. The New Jersey Legislative Select Oversight Committee,  
18 upon the written approval of the President of the Senate and the  
19 Speaker of the General Assembly, shall be entitled to call to its  
20 assistance, employ, and avail itself of the services of one or more  
21 special counsel retained to assist the New Jersey Legislative Select  
22 Oversight Committee.

23

24 5. This concurrent resolution shall take effect immediately.

25

26

27

STATEMENT

28

29 This concurrent resolution constitutes a special committee of the  
30 Legislature entitled the "New Jersey Legislative Select Oversight  
31 Committee." The committee will investigate public sector  
32 screening practices with respect to the employment of individuals  
33 with a history of alleged criminal misconduct. The committee will  
34 focus on how allegations of sexual assault, abuse, or harassment are  
35 handled by the government. It will make recommendations on how  
36 laws that address this subject may be improved.

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**SENATOR LORETTA WEINBERG (Co-Chair):** Good morning, everyone.

Can we have a roll call, please?

**MS. WOZUNK (Committee Aide):** Assemblywoman Schepisi.  
(no response)

Assemblywoman DeCroce.

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN DeCROCE:** Here.

**MS. WOZUNK:** Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson.

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN REYNOLDS-JACKSON:** Here.

**MS. WOZUNK:** Assemblywoman Pinkin.

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN:** Present.

**MS. WOZUNK:** Assemblywoman McKnight.

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN McKNIGHT:** Here.

**MS. WOZUNK:** Assemblywoman Lampitt.

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN LAMPITT:** Here.

**MS. WOZUNK:** Assemblyman Johnson. (no response)

Senator Oroho.

**SENATOR OROHO:** Here.

**MS. WOZUNK:** Senator Ruiz.

**SENATOR RUIZ:** Here.

**MS. WOZUNK:** Senator Madden.

**SENATOR MADDEN:** Here.

**MS. WOZUNK:** Senator Cunningham.

**SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:** Here.

**MS. WOZUNK:** Vice Chair Muñoz.

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN NANCY F. MUÑOZ (Co-Vice Chair):** Here.

MS. WOZUNK: Vice Chair Corrado.

**SENATOR KRISTIN M. CORRADO (Co-Vice Chair):** Here.

MS. WOZUNK: Co-Chairwoman Pintor Marin.

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN ELIANA PINTOR MARIN (Co-Chair):** Here.

MS. WOZUNK: Co-Chair Weinberg.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Here.

MS. WOZUNK: We have a quorum.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Can I ask the two (*sic*) attorneys to please introduce themselves?

**MICHAEL CRITCHLEY, Sr., Esq. (Special Counsel):** Good morning; Michael Critchley, from the law firm of Critchley, Kinum, and Denoia.

**JOSEPH A. HAYDEN, Jr., Esq. (Special Counsel):** Good morning; Joe Hayden, from the law firm Pashman Stein Walder Hayden, in Hackensack.

**ROSEMARY ALITO, Esq. (Special Counsel):** Rosemary Alito, from K&L Gates.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Good morning, everybody, to the first meeting of the New Jersey Legislative Select Oversight Committee.

This is the organizational meeting; and today, the Committee will formally adopt the Resolution that sets forth the procedures that will guide us, moving forward.

This is a special Committee; and I know, we all know, with weighty responsibilities that we all take very seriously.

The Committee is bipartisan and bicameral. Our membership includes both houses of the Legislature and both parties.

We are responsible for undertaking a review of the handling of certain allegations of sexual assault by government officials; as well as all aspects of the policies and procedures regarding the screening and continued employment, in the public sector, of persons with questionable backgrounds, including practices concerning the handling of claims of sexual assault, abuse, or harassment.

Obviously, this is a serious issue; and it is also a sensitive issue. And we fully intend to have this Committee do its work in a very serious way.

This is not a partisan issue, it's not a political issue, and it's not an issue that is confined to any one government entity, or to any branch of government, or to the public sector. As we have all learned during what is now called the *me too era*, the problem of sexual assault, harassment, and abuse is a problem that is pervasive and has been with us for a long time. Many of us have experienced it firsthand. There are survivors in this room today, there are survivors sitting on this Committee.

I am glad that Governor Murphy is having his Administration conduct its own investigation. And I know that he recognizes the importance of addressing this and, hopefully, he will be a full partner in this undertaking.

We will be respectful of the Attorney General's investigation. We will be careful to avoid any interference with their work, which is why

we amended the enabling Resolution to avoid a review of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, so that the AG can do his work.

But the Legislature has a role, too. In fact, we have a responsibility to provide independent oversight, and we have the ability to make changes that may be needed to address these issues.

We also have a shared responsibility to treat this issue with seriousness and the sensitivity it demands. This is a fact-finding Committee that will work to get a full and fair accounting of what happened, or what didn't happen, in the hiring practices that allowed government employees, accused of sexual assault and other alleged misconduct, to evade accountability.

Our focus will be on the hiring practices of public sector government entities. It will include the screening of high-level officials and what practices and procedures need to be improved.

We need to determine what can be done to screen out those who pose a threat, and what can be done to assure that sexual assault survivors are treated with respect and compassion so that they -- and the rest of us -- can trust our government. We will use this opportunity to bring an end to the types of abuse and misconduct that have plagued society for much too long.

And with that, I would like to turn the microphone over to my Co-Chair, Eliana -- Assemblywoman, pardon me -- Eliana Pintor Marin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINTOR MARIN: Thank you, Senator; and thank you, everyone, for being here today.

I think that one of the most important things that -- items that Senator Weinberg touched upon is the fact that this Committee was put together in order to be a fact-finding Committee.

I'm pleased to have been selected by the Speaker as Co-Chairperson of the New Jersey Legislative Select Oversight Committee, and I would like to take this opportunity to set forth my views as to the mission of our Committee.

We are brought together by a serious allegation of sexual assault against a man who was subsequently hired into a high-level position in State government. According to media reports, this charge has been denied.

Although sexual assault is a heinous crime, it is for the criminal justice system, and not our Committee, to determine if the allegations are true. It is the mission of our Committee to examine all aspects of the screening of perspective employees in State government, and continued employment in the public sector by persons with questionable backgrounds or pending allegations; including allegations or claims of sexual offenses.

After public hearings, where we will take testimony, our Joint Committee will make recommendations to create improvements in screening and hiring practices.

We anticipate that our Joint Committee will embark upon a rigorous examination of the facts; but we will do so consistent with fundamental fairness and due process of law. To accomplish this, we have engaged experienced attorneys who will ensure that our hearings are handled with professionalism and fairness.

We intend to conduct our hearings as promptly as possible and deliver a report in an expeditious fashion.

Thank you all for all the time that you will be spending with us, and I appreciate everyone's input.

Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

We do have some housekeeping issues to take care of this morning -- the adoption of the rules and regulations. I know that you have -- some of you -- well, all of us have gotten them a little bit on the late side; but they're quite consistent with the Joint Resolution that created this Committee.

And just to clear up any misunderstanding, all of the documents that we receive, as a Committee, will be on a secure website platform -- whatever the technology might be -- to which every single member of the Committee will have access.

My Co-Chair, Assemblywoman Pintor Marin, and I will have custody of those documents. As we know, some of them must be kept confidential; they will be dealing with sensitive, personal issues, we think. And so we are all going to be respectful of that. But everybody on this Committee will have access to those documents.

In addition, you have all received a list of those people to whom our two attorneys -- three attorneys addressed a memo to; just the ordinary *preservation of document* request.

We will-- Our next meeting will be on December 4, where we have invited Katie Brennan to appear there to give her statement. And as far as I know, she has agreed to that appearance.

So with that, can we have a motion to adopt the rules and regulations?

SENATOR RUIZ: So moved.

ASSEMBLYMAN JOHNSON: Second.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Roll call.

MS. WOZUNK: On the motion to adopt the Committee Resolution, Assemblywoman Schepisi. (no response)

Assemblywoman DeCroce.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DeCROCE: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN REYNOLDS-JACKSON: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Assemblywoman McKnight.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McKNIGHT: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Assemblywoman Lampitt.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN LAMPITT: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Assemblyman Johnson.

ASSEMBLYMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Senator Oroho.

SENATOR OROHO: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Senator Ruiz.

SENATOR RUIZ: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Senator Madden.

SENATOR MADDEN: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Vice Chair Muñoz.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MUÑOZ: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Vice Chair Corrado.

Senator Corrado: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Co-Chairwoman Pintor Marin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINTOR MARIN: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: Co-Chairwoman Weinberg.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes.

MS. WOZUNK: The Resolution is adopted.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

If there is no other business before the Committee, we can  
adjourn.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINTOR MARIN: Thank you,  
everyone.

**(MEETING CONCLUDED)**