

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1266

An act relating to victims; creating the Task Force on Victims of Self-Inflicted Crimes within the Executive Office of the Governor; providing for membership of the task force; requiring the task force to review the problems of victims of self-inflicted crimes and propose solutions to remediate this behavior; requiring the task force to hold a specified number of public meetings; providing requirements for a written report by the task force; providing for members of the task force to be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses; authorizing the task force to employ an executive director; abolishing the task force after a specified date; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Task Force on Victims of Self-Inflicted Crimes.—

(1)(a) The Task Force on Victims of Self-Inflicted Crimes is created within the Executive Office of the Governor. The task force shall be composed of 15 members. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, the Secretary of Corrections, and the executive director of the Department of Law Enforcement shall personally serve as members of the task force. Additional members of the task force shall include the Governor's Victims' Rights Advocate; the Director of the Crime Victims' Services Office within the Department of Legal Affairs; a state attorney, appointed by the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association; a public defender, appointed by the Public Defenders Association; a sheriff, appointed by the Florida Sheriffs Association; a police chief, appointed by the Florida Police Chiefs Association; the State Courts Administrator; a representative of the Florida Network of Victim/Witness Services, Inc., appointed by the board of the network; a commissioner of the Florida Parole Commission, appointed by the commission; and three victims of self-inflicted crimes, appointed by the Governor in consultation with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(b) The appointments must be made within 14 days after the effective date of the act, and the task force shall hold its first meeting within 30 days after the effective date of the act. Any vacancy that occurs on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(2) Members of the task force are entitled to one vote each, and an action of the task force is not binding unless a majority of the total number of votes that are cast are votes in favor of the action. The task force may not take action unless a majority of the members are present at a meeting.

(3) The task force shall review the problems associated with victims of self-inflicted crimes and propose solutions for reducing repetitious behavior by which individuals commit such acts through the provision of programs designed specifically to remediate this behavior. At a minimum, the task force shall investigate the following issues:

- (a) Causes leading to self-inflicted crimes.
- (b) Current availability of treatment within the state and outside the state.
- (c) Current methods of treatment within the state and outside the state.
- (d) Numbers of victims by types of behavior.
- (e) Current policies of the state and local governments with respect to victims of self-inflicted crimes.
- (f) Recommendations to improve services for this population at the state and local level.
- (4) The task force shall hold at least four public hearings throughout the state to solicit input from the public and appropriate experts on the problems of victims of self-inflicted crimes.
- (5) The task force shall, by January 1, 2001, provide to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a written report that contains specific recommendations for addressing the problems of victims of self-inflicted crimes. The recommendations of the task force must include proposed legislation.
- (6) Task force members shall not receive remuneration for their services, but members other than public officers and employees are entitled to reimbursement for travel and per diem expenses in accordance with section 112.061, Florida Statutes.
- (7) The task force may employ an executive director, who shall receive supplemental financial and other assistance from other agencies under the Governor's direct supervision. The Executive Office of the Governor shall provide additional assistance as appropriate.
- (8) The task force shall continue in existence until its objectives are achieved, but not later than January 15, 2001.

Section 2. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Executive Office of the Governor for the purpose of paying the administrative expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 26, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 26, 2000.