

CHAPTER 2012-120

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 227

An act relating to prescription drug abuse; creating the Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and Newborns; providing a purpose; providing membership of the task force; providing for reimbursement of per diem and travel expenses for members of the task force; requiring that the Department of Legal Affairs provide the task force with necessary staff; specifying a date for the task force's organizational session; providing meeting times; providing the duties of the task force; requiring that the task force submit reports to the Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and Newborns.—

(1) The Legislature declares that the purpose of this act is to create a task force to examine and analyze the emerging problem of neonatal withdrawal syndrome as it pertains to prescription drugs.

(2)(a) There is created within the Department of Legal Affairs the Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and Newborns, a task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes. The task force is created for the express purpose of researching the impact of prescription drug use and neonatal withdrawal syndrome, evaluating effective strategies for treatment and prevention, and providing policy recommendations to the Legislature.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members, or the member's designee:

1. The Attorney General, who shall serve as chair.
2. The Surgeon General, who shall serve as vice chair.
3. The Secretary of Children and Family Services.
4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration.
5. The executive director of the Department of Law Enforcement.
6. A legislator appointed by the President of the Senate.
7. A legislator appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
8. A representative from the Florida Medical Association.
9. A representative from the Florida Hospital Association.

10. A representative, appointed by the Attorney General, from an addiction and recovery association.

11. A representative from the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.

12. A representative from the March of Dimes.

13. A representative of Healthy Start.

14. A resident of this state appointed by the Attorney General.

15. A representative from the Florida Nurses Association.

(c) Members of the task force are entitled to receive reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

(d) The Department of Legal Affairs shall provide the task force with staff necessary to assist the task force in the performance of its duties.

(3) The task force shall hold its organizational session by May 1, 2012. Thereafter, the task force shall meet at least four times per year. Additional meetings may be held if the chair determines that extraordinary circumstances require an additional meeting. A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum.

(4) The task force shall:

(a) Collect and organize data concerning the nature and extent of neonatal withdrawal syndrome from prescription drugs in this state;

(b) Collect and organize data concerning the costs associated with treating expectant mothers and newborns suffering from withdrawal from prescription drugs;

(c) Identify available federal, state, and local programs that provide services to mothers who abuse prescription drugs and newborns who have neonatal withdrawal syndrome; and

(d) Evaluate methods to increase public awareness of the dangers associated with prescription drug abuse, particularly to women, expectant mothers, and newborns.

(5) The task force shall submit an interim report of its recommendations to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15, 2013, and a final report of its recommendations to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15, 2015.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 19, 2012.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 19, 2012.