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1 position shall appoint a member to fill the vacancy. Each  
2 appointing authority may remove his or her appointee for  
3 cause, and shall remove an appointee who, without cause, fails  
4 to attend three consecutive meetings. Members of the task  
5 force shall serve without compensation but are entitled to  
6 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses incurred in the  
7 performance of their duties as provided in section 112.061,  
8 Florida Statutes.

9 (3) The task force shall hold its organizational  
10 meeting by September 1, 1999; and, thereafter, shall meet at  
11 the call of the chair, but shall meet at least monthly before  
12 submitting its final recommendations. The task force shall be  
13 chaired by a member designated by the Governor. The task  
14 force shall elect a vice chair to serve in the absence of the  
15 chair. The task force shall adopt procedures or bylaws  
16 necessary for its efficient operation and may appoint  
17 subcommittees from its membership.

18 (4) The task force shall examine the funding of state  
19 system of public schools as provided by the Florida Education  
20 Finance Program created by section 236.081, Florida Statutes,  
21 and implemented by the general appropriations acts. The task  
22 force shall consider at least the following:

23 (a) The funding of public schools based on their  
24 performance in educating students as evidenced by the  
25 achieving of equitable outcomes that meet the state academic  
26 achievement standards for all students.

27 (b) The relationship between state funding and local  
28 funding for public schools.

29 (c) The maintenance of funding equity in the  
30 allocation of dollars among school districts and schools.

31 (d) The acquisition and support of technology to

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1 assist in the instructional process.

2 (e) The funding support for parental choice in the  
3 selection of educational services for children.

4 (f) The results and recommendations of public school  
5 funding studies conducted by nationally recognized experts,  
6 groups, and other states.

7 (5) The task force:

8 (a) Shall appoint an executive director, who shall  
9 serve under its direction, supervision, and control. The  
10 executive director shall be the chief administrative officer  
11 of the task force. Subject to approval by the task force, the  
12 executive director shall employ, direct, and control research  
13 and support staff to serve the task force and its  
14 subcommittees. All employees of the task force are exempt  
15 from the Career Service System. The Commissioner of Education  
16 shall designate personnel of the Department of Education to  
17 assist the task force until its staff is employed.

18 (b) May enter into contracts or agreements with  
19 nationally recognized school-finance experts to serve in a  
20 consulting and advisory capacity.

21 (c) May apply for and accept funds, grants, donations,  
22 expenses, in-kind services, and other valued goods or services  
23 from the government of the United States or any of its  
24 agencies or any other public or private sources. Funds or  
25 services acquired or accepted under this paragraph must be  
26 used to carry out the task force's duties and  
27 responsibilities.

28 (c) Shall keep full, detailed, and accurate records  
29 pursuant to chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

30 (d) By September 1, 2000, shall submit draft  
31 recommendations and, by February 1, 2002, shall submit final

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1 recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
2 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Before  
3 adopting final recommendations, the task force shall conduct  
4 at least one public hearing in each of the five service  
5 regions of the Department of Education between September 1 and  
6 December 31, 2001.

7 (6) This section expires June 30, 2002.

8 Section 2. Section 236.081, Florida Statutes, 1998  
9 Supplement, is repealed effective June 30, 2002, subject to  
10 prior review by the Task Force on Public School Funding.

11 Section 3. Effective July 1, 1999, the sum of \$800,000  
12 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Office of  
13 Legislative Services to cover the expenses of the Task Force  
14 on Public School Funding created by this act.

15  
16 (Redesignate subsequent sections.)

17  
18

19 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

20 And the title is amended as follows:

21 On page 1, line 2, delete that line

22

23 and insert:

24 An act relating to education; creating the Task  
25 Force on Public School Funding; providing for  
26 the appointment and organization of the task  
27 force; specifying powers and duties; specifying  
28 duties of the Department of Education;  
29 requiring certain reports and public hearings;  
30 repealing s. 236.081, F.S., relating to the  
31 Florida Education Finance Program; providing an

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1           appropriation; amending  
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