

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 1266

SPONSOR: Criminal Justice Committee and Senator McKay

SUBJECT: Victim Task Force

DATE: February 22, 2000 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Dugger</u>	<u>Cannon</u>	<u>CJ</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1266 creates the Task Force on Victims of Self-Inflicted Crimes within the Executive Office of the Governor. This task force is charged with studying the problems associated with victims of self-inflicted crimes and proposing solutions for reducing the repetitious behavior causing these actions by providing programs to specifically remediate this behavior.

This CS creates unnumbered sections of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Chapter 960, F.S., prescribes assistance and rights for victims of crime in Florida. Section 960.001, F.S., mandates that specified criminal justice agencies provide written guidelines for the fair treatment of victims and witnesses in the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems. These agencies include the Department of Legal Affairs, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Law Enforcement, the Parole Commission, the state attorneys, the State Courts Administrator and circuit court administrators, and all law enforcement agencies. The Executive Office of the Governor is charged with monitoring agency compliance with this mandate and initiating compliance through the courts, if necessary.

Although many entities have been created to assist victims of crime in various ways (i.e., the Crime Victims' Services Office within the Department of Legal Affairs), there is currently not a task force or commission that has been set up to examine the problems associated with victims of self-inflicted crimes, such as prostitution, using drugs, or possessing drugs.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1266 would create the Task Force on Victims of Self-Inflicted Crimes within the Executive Office of the Governor. This task force would be charged

with studying the problems associated with victims of self-inflicted crimes and proposing solutions for reducing the repetitious behavior causing these actions by providing programs to specifically remediate this behavior.

The CS would require the task force to investigate the following: causes leading to these crimes; current availability and methods of treatment; current state and local policies relative to victims of self-inflicted crimes; number of these victims; and recommendations to improve services for this population. The task force would be required to conduct at least four public hearings around the state to receive input from the public and experts on problems of victims of self-inflicted crimes. By January 1, 2001, the task force would issue its written report, containing recommendations for addressing the problems of victims of self-inflicted crimes, to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House. The life of the task force would end no later than January 15, 2001.

The task force would be composed of 15 members, as follows: the Secretaries of the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Corrections; the executive director of the Department of Law Enforcement; the Governor's Victims' Rights Advocate; the Director of the Crime Victims' Services Office within the Department of Legal Affairs; a state attorney, public defender, sheriff, and police chief appointed by their respective associations; the State Courts Administrator; a Florida Parole Commissioner; a representative of the Florida Network of Victim/Witness Services; and three victims of self-inflicted crimes, appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Senate President and the House Speaker.

Task Force members would be entitled to one vote each, and for an action to be binding, it would take a majority of the total number of votes being cast to be in favor of the action. To take action, a majority of the task force would be required to be present. Members would not be paid for their services, but would receive travel and per diem expenses reimbursement, unless they are public officers and employees. The CS would authorize the task force to employ an executive director and to receive additional assistance as appropriate from the Executive Office of the Governor. The first meeting of the task force would be required to take place within 30 days after the CS's effective date (upon becoming law).

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

An appropriation of \$ 250,000 from the General Revenue Fund is made to the Executive Office of the Governor to implement the provisions of this CS.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
