

By Representative Albright

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to taxation; creating the State  
3           Tax Reform Task Force; providing for the  
4           appointment and organization of the task force;  
5           specifying duties; providing for reports;  
6           providing for the expiration of the act;  
7           providing an appropriation; providing an  
8           effective date.

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

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12           Section 1.   The State Tax Reform Task Force;  
13   membership; duties.--

14           (1) The State Tax Reform Task Force is created to  
15   examine the state's tax structure and make recommendations to  
16   the Governor and the Legislature on how the state's tax  
17   structure can be improved to ensure a stable revenue base that  
18   is adequate to fund the needs of the state. The Senate Fiscal  
19   Resource Committee and the House Finance and Tax Committee  
20   shall provide administrative staff for the task force. The  
21   task force shall consist of the following members, who must be  
22   appointed by July 1, 2000:

23           (a) Five members to be appointed by the Governor.

24           (b) Five members to be appointed by the President of  
25   the Senate.

26           (c) Five members to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
27   House of Representatives.

28           (d) The Executive Director of the Department of  
29   Revenue or his or her designee.

30           (2) Each appointed member of the task force shall  
31   serve at the pleasure of the appointing official. A vacancy on

1 the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the  
2 original appointment.

3 (3) The task force shall elect a chair from among its  
4 members.

5 (4) The task force shall hold its organizational  
6 meeting by August 1, 2000, and thereafter shall meet as  
7 necessary at the call of the chair at the time and place  
8 designated by the chair. A quorum is necessary for the purpose  
9 of conducting official business of the task force. The task  
10 force shall use accepted rules of procedure to conduct its  
11 meetings and shall keep a complete record of each meeting.

12 (5) Members of the task force shall serve without  
13 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem  
14 and travel expenses incurred in the performance of their  
15 duties as provided in section 112.061, Florida Statutes.

16 (6) The task force shall examine the state's tax  
17 structure to evaluate whether it is adequate for supporting  
18 the continuing needs of the state. The task force shall  
19 consider the following in its evaluation:

20 (a) Standard principles of sound tax policy:

21 1. Effectiveness.--Is the revenue raised by the system  
22 stable and adequate to fund needed services or is it highly  
23 sensitive to economic fluctuations in the short run? Does the  
24 tax structure produce revenue that grows as the state's  
25 economy grows; thereby enabling the public sector to grow  
26 commensurately with the private sector?

27 2. Efficiency.--Is Florida's tax structure easily and  
28 economically administered? Is compliance with tax provisions,  
29 by businesses and by consumers, simple and inexpensive? Does  
30 the tax system unnecessarily distort decisionmaking by  
31 consumers or business? To what degree can the tax burden be

1 exported to tourists, the federal government, or out-of-state  
2 businesses? How does the state's tax structure interact with  
3 Federal or local tax structures?

4 3. Equity.--Is Florida's tax structure proportional or  
5 progressive in its incidence among income groups? Are  
6 individuals with similar incomes taxed uniformly? Are  
7 Florida's taxes based on ability to pay?

8 (b) How other states treat the same or similar tax  
9 issues.

10 (c) Whether the base of the tax system is as broad as  
11 possible, so that tax rates and burdens are as low as  
12 possible.

13 (d) Whether tax exemptions are consistent with state  
14 tax policy and the economic impact of each exemption.

15 (7) In addition, the task force shall provide an  
16 analysis of alternative tax sources.

17 (8) By February 1, 2001, the task force shall submit  
18 an interim report and, by February 1, 2002, shall submit a  
19 final report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and  
20 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

21 (9) This section expires June 30, 2002.

22 Section 2. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from  
23 the General Revenue Fund to the Office of Legislative Services  
24 for the purpose of paying administrative expenses and funding  
25 contracts necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

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

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SENATE SUMMARY

Creates the State Tax Reform Task Force. Provides for the appointment and organization of the task force. Specifies duties of the task force. Requires reports. Provides for the expiration of the act. Provides an Appropriation.