

By Representative Edwards

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Voting System Technology  
3           Task Force; creating a Voting System Technology  
4           Task Force; providing for membership, officers,  
5           organization, per diem, and staffing; providing  
6           duties; providing for a report and termination  
7           of the task force upon submission of the  
8           report; providing an 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. (1) The Voting System Technology Task  
13 Force is created within the Department of State to study the  
14 issues and costs of developing and implementing an Internet or  
15 on-line voting system for use in this state. The task force  
16 shall be composed of 20 members, as follows:

17           (a) The Secretary of State, or the secretary's  
18 designee, who shall serve as chair of the task force;

19           (b) The President of the Senate shall appoint one  
20 member of the Senate;

21           (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
22 appoint one member of the House of Representatives;

23           (d) The minority leader of the Senate shall appoint  
24 one member of the Senate;

25           (e) The minority leader of the House of  
26 Representatives shall appoint one member of the House of  
27 Representatives;

28           (f) The Governor shall appoint one member;

29           (g) The Presidents of Florida Agricultural and  
30 Mechanical University and Florida International University  
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1 shall each appoint one member who is a technical expert from  
2 their respective faculties; and  
3 (h) The Secretary of State shall appoint members as  
4 follows: four supervisors of elections, two from urban  
5 counties and two from rural counties; two public or private  
6 technical experts; one member of the Florida State Conference  
7 of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of  
8 Colored People, upon recommendation of the state conference  
9 president; one member of the League of United Latin American  
10 Citizens, upon recommendation of the state director; two other  
11 interested persons of diverse age, race, gender, or other  
12 relevant demographic characteristics; and two other persons  
13 whom the Secretary of State deems qualified or who have  
14 expertise in the field of computers, the Internet, or  
15 associated technologies.  
16 (2) Members of the task force shall serve without  
17 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem  
18 and travel expenses pursuant to section 112.061, Florida  
19 Statutes, while engaged in their official duties.  
20 (3) The task force shall consider an Internet or  
21 on-line voting system that will allow voters to cast secure  
22 electronic ballots from sites not under the control of  
23 elections officials and a system that will allow voters to  
24 cast secure electronic ballots from sites under the control of  
25 elections officials. The study must address the following  
26 issues:  
27 (a) Security and voter fraud;  
28 (b) Public accessibility to the voting system,  
29 including demographic factors that limit access;  
30 (c) Voter acceptance and support for the voting  
31 system;

- 1           (d) Cost estimates for developing and implementing  
2 pilot projects; and
- 3           (e) Estimated costs and savings to be realized in  
4 continuing development, full implementation, maintenance, and  
5 operation of the system over time.
- 6           (4) The Secretary of State shall submit to the  
7 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
8 House of Representatives, by July 1, 2001, a report giving the  
9 task force's recommendation on whether the state should pursue  
10 the development and implementation of a widespread Internet or  
11 on-line voting system and containing all relevant findings. If  
12 the task force recommends Internet or on-line voting  
13 favorably, the report must recommend steps for developing and  
14 implementing such a system. Upon submission of the secretary's  
15 report, the task force shall expire.
- 16           (5) The Division of Elections of the Department of  
17 State shall provide support staff for the task force. The  
18 State Technology Office of the Department of Management  
19 Services and the State University System shall assist the task  
20 force, upon request.
- 21           (6) Effective July 1, 2000, the sum of \$200,000 is  
22 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department  
23 of State, and two positions are created within the department,  
24 to implement this act.

25           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming  
26 law.

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29           SENATE SUMMARY

30           Creates the Voting System Technology Task Force and  
31           provides for membership, officers, organization, per diem  
          expenses, and staffing. Provides duties of the task  
          force, requires a report, and terminates the task force.