

By the Committee on Ethics and Elections; and Senator Meek

313-1829-00

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Voting System Technology Task Force; creating a Voting System Technology Task Force; providing for membership, officers, organization, per diem, and staffing; providing duties; providing for a report and termination of the task force upon submission of the report; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) The Voting System Technology Task Force is created within the Department of State to study the issues and costs of developing and implementing an Internet or on-line voting system for use in this state. The task force shall be composed of 21 members, as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

(f) The Governor shall appoint one member;

(g) The Presidents of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and Florida International University

1 shall each appoint one member who is a technical expert from
2 their respective faculties;

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, economic, and
12 other relevant demographic characteristics; and two other
13 persons whom the Secretary of State deems qualified or who
14 have expertise in the field of computers, the Internet, or
15 associated technologies.

16 (i) The chair of the Information Service Technology
17 Development Task Force, or the chair's designee.

18 (2) Members of the task force shall serve without
19 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem
20 and travel expenses pursuant to section 112.061, Florida
21 Statutes, while engaged in their official duties.

22 (3) The task force shall consider an Internet or
23 on-line voting system that will allow voters to cast secure
24 electronic ballots from sites not under the control of
25 elections officials and a system that will allow voters to
26 cast secure electronic ballots from sites under the control of
27 elections officials. The study must address the following
28 issues:

29 (a) Security and voter fraud;

30 (b) Public accessibility to the voting system,
31 including demographic factors that limit access;

1 (c) Voter acceptance and support for the voting
2 system;

3 (d) Cost estimates for developing and implementing
4 pilot projects; and

5 (e) Estimated costs and savings to be realized in
6 continuing development, full implementation, maintenance, and
7 operation of the system over time.

8 (4) The Secretary of State shall submit to the
9 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
10 House of Representatives, by July 1, 2001, a report giving the
11 task force's recommendation on whether the state should pursue
12 the development and implementation of a widespread Internet or
13 on-line voting system and containing all relevant findings. If
14 the task force recommends Internet or on-line voting
15 favorably, the report must recommend steps for developing and
16 implementing such a system. Upon submission of the secretary's
17 report, the task force shall expire.

18 (5) The Division of Elections of the Department of
19 State shall provide support staff for the task force. The
20 State Technology Office of the Department of Management
21 Services and the State University System shall assist the task
22 force, upon request.

23 (6) Effective July 1, 2000, the sum of \$200,000 is
24 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department
25 of State, and two positions are created within the department,
26 to implement this act.

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming
28 law.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SB 2276

The committee substitute differs from the original bill in that it: expands the Voting System Technology Task Force from 20 to 21 members, to provide membership for the Chair of the Information Service Technology Development Task Force; allows the Secretary of State to consider economic factors in determining task force membership for "interested persons."