

By the Committees on Fiscal Policy; Ethics and Elections; and
Senator Meek

309-2089-00

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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 Chancellor of the State University System
shall appoint two faculty members who are technical experts;

1 (h) The Secretary of State shall appoint members as
2 follows: four supervisors of elections, two from urban
3 counties and two from rural counties; two public or private
4 technical experts; one member of the Florida State Conference
5 of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of
6 Colored People, upon recommendation of the state conference
7 president; one member of the League of United Latin American
8 Citizens, upon recommendation of the state director; two other
9 interested persons of diverse age, race, gender, economic, and
10 other relevant demographic characteristics; and two other
11 persons whom the Secretary of State deems qualified or who
12 have expertise in the field of computers, the Internet, or
13 associated technologies.

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

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 and privacy issues;

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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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
CS/SB 2276

The Chancellor of the State University System shall appoint two faculty members who are technical experts to the Voting System Technology Task Force.

Adds privacy issues to the list of items to be addressed in the study.