

By Representatives Siplin, Weissman and Bennett

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 appropriation; providing  
9           an effective date.

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

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

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

20           (b) One member of the Florida Senate appointed by the  
21 President of the Senate;

22           (c) One member of the Florida House of Representatives  
23 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

24           (d) One member of the Florida Senate appointed by the  
25 minority leader of the Senate;

26           (e) One member of the Florida House of Representatives  
27 appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
28 Representatives;

29           (f) One person appointed by the Governor;

30           (g) Two faculty members of the State University System  
31 who are technical experts appointed by the Chancellor;

1       (h) Twelve persons appointed by the Secretary of State  
2 as 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; and

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 s. 112.061, Florida Statutes,  
19 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, 2002, a report presenting  
9 the task force's recommendation and findings concerning  
10 whether the state should pursue the development and  
11 implementation of a widespread Internet or on-line voting  
12 system. If the task force recommends Internet or on-line  
13 voting favorably, the report must recommend steps for  
14 developing and implementing such a system. Upon submission of  
15 the secretary's report, the task force is abolished.
- 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, 2001, 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 a  
26 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Creates the Voting System Technology Task Force and provides for membership, officers, organization, expense reimbursement, and staffing. Provides duties and requires a report. Provides for termination of the task force and provides an appropriation.