

HB 49C

2010C

1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to environmental protection; creating s.  
 3 377.43, F.S.; establishing the Gulf of Mexico Protection  
 4 Task Force within the Department of Environmental  
 5 Protection; providing for membership and duties of the  
 6 task force; providing administrative duties of the task  
 7 force; providing an effective date.

8  
 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11 Section 1. Section 377.43, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 12 read:

13 377.43 Gulf of Mexico Protection Task Force.—

14 (1) The Gulf of Mexico Protection Task Force is  
 15 established within the Department of Environmental Protection.  
 16 The duty of the task force is to establish best practices in the  
 17 Gulf of Mexico for:

18 (a) Protecting Florida's shores from any harmful effects  
 19 of offshore drilling.

20 (b) Monitoring and assessing environmental cleanup and  
 21 protection efforts.

22 (c) Monitoring the effects of the use of chemical  
 23 dispersants on the environment.

24 (d) Protecting and improving the economy of the state.

25 (2) The members of the Gulf of Mexico Protection Task  
 26 Force shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the  
 27 Secretary of Environmental Protection. The task force shall meet  
 28 at the call of the chair to evaluate any pending application for

HB 49C

2010C

29 a permit to drill in the Gulf of Mexico and may make other  
30 evaluations requested by the department. The membership of the  
31 task force shall be composed as follows:

32 (a) The State Geologist, who shall serve as chair.

33 (b) A representative of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
34 Commission.

35 (c) A representative from the oil industry.

36 (d) A representative from an organized conservation group.

37 (e) A botanist.

38 (f) A hydrologist.

39 (g) A master gardener.

40 (3) The task force shall administer this section pursuant  
41 to the laws of the state and the rules and orders of the  
42 department which apply generally to regulation of the production  
43 of oil and gas. If site-specific conditions require, the task  
44 force may recommend that additional procedures, safeguards, or  
45 conditions that are necessary to protect the integrity of the  
46 Florida coast of the Gulf of Mexico be required as a condition  
47 to the issuance of a permit to drill and produce in waters of  
48 the gulf under state jurisdiction.

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2010.