

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to prescription drug abuse; creating
 3 the Florida Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug
 4 Abuse and Newborns; providing legislative intent;
 5 providing for purposes, membership, meetings, and
 6 duties of the task force; providing for reimbursement
 7 for per diem and travel expenses; requiring a report
 8 to the Legislature; 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. Florida Statewide Task Force on Prescription
 13 Drug Abuse and Newborns.—

14 (1) The Legislature declares that the purpose of this act
 15 is to create a task force to examine and analyze the emerging
 16 problem of Neonatal Withdrawal Syndrome, as it pertains to
 17 prescription drugs.

18 (2) (a) The Florida Statewide Task Force on Prescription
 19 Drug Abuse and Newborns, a task force as defined in s. 20.03(8),
 20 Florida Statutes, is created within the Department of Legal
 21 Affairs. The task force is created for the express purpose of
 22 researching the impact of prescription drug use and Neonatal
 23 Withdrawal Syndrome, evaluating effective strategies for
 24 treatment and prevention, and providing policy recommendations
 25 to the Legislature.

26 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members
 27 or their designees:

- 28 1. The Attorney General, who shall serve as chair.

29 2. The State Surgeon General, who shall serve as vice
 30 chair.

31 3. The Secretary of Children and Family Services.

32 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration.

33 5. The executive director of the Department of Law
 34 Enforcement.

35 6. A Senator appointed by the President of the Senate.

36 7. A Member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
 37 Representatives.

38 8. A representative from the Florida Medical Association.

39 9. A representative from the Florida Hospital Association.

40 10. A representative from an addiction and recovery
 41 association, appointed by the Attorney General.

42 (c) Members of the task force may be reimbursed for per
 43 diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida
 44 Statutes.

45 (d) The Department of Legal Affairs shall provide the task
 46 force with staff necessary to assist the task force in the
 47 performance of its duties.

48 (3) The task force shall hold its organizational session
 49 by May 1, 2012. Thereafter, the task force shall meet at least
 50 four times per year. Additional meetings may be held if the
 51 chair determines that extraordinary circumstances require an
 52 additional meeting. A majority of the members of the task force
 53 constitutes a quorum.

54 (4) The task force shall:

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55 (a) Collect and organize data concerning the nature and
56 extent of Neonatal Withdrawal Syndrome from prescription drugs
57 in the state.

58 (b) Collect and organize data concerning the costs
59 associated with treating expectant mothers and newborns
60 suffering from prescription drug withdrawal.

61 (c) Identify available federal, state, and local programs
62 that provide services to mothers who abuse prescription drugs
63 and newborns with Neonatal Withdrawal Syndrome.

64 (d) Evaluate approaches to increase public awareness of
65 dangers associated with prescription drug abuse, particularly
66 with regard to women, expectant mothers, and newborns.

67 (5) The task force shall submit a report on its findings
68 to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
69 Representatives by January 15, 2013.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.