

CS/HB 227

2012

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to prescription drug abuse; creating
3 the Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse
4 and Newborns; providing a purpose; providing
5 membership of the task force; providing for
6 reimbursement of per diem and travel expenses for
7 members of the task force; requiring that the
8 Department of Legal Affairs provide the task force
9 with necessary staff; specifying a date for the task
10 force's organizational session; providing meeting
11 times; providing the duties of the task force;
12 requiring that the task force submit reports to the
13 Legislature; providing an effective date.

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15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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17 Section 1. Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse
18 and Newborns.—

19 (1) The Legislature declares that the purpose of this act
20 is to create a task force to examine and analyze the emerging
21 problem of neonatal withdrawal syndrome as it pertains to
22 prescription drugs.

23 (2) (a) There is created within the Department of Legal
24 Affairs the Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and
25 Newborns, a task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes.
26 The task force is created for the express purpose of researching
27 the impact of prescription drug use and neonatal withdrawal
28 syndrome, evaluating effective strategies for treatment and

29 prevention, and providing policy recommendations to the
 30 Legislature.

31 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members,
 32 or the member's designee:

33 1. The Attorney General, who shall serve as chair.

34 2. The Surgeon General, who shall serve as vice chair.

35 3. The Secretary of Children and Family Services.

36 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration.

37 5. The executive director of the Department of Law
 38 Enforcement.

39 6. A legislator appointed by the President of the Senate.

40 7. A legislator appointed by the Speaker of the House of
 41 Representatives.

42 8. A representative from the Florida Medical Association.

43 9. A representative from the Florida Hospital Association.

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

46 11. A representative from the Florida Osteopathic Medical
 47 Association.

48 12. A representative from the March of Dimes.

49 13. A representative of Healthy Start.

50 14. A resident of this state appointed by the Attorney
 51 General.

52 (c) Members of the task force are entitled to receive
 53 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.
 54 112.061, Florida Statutes.

55 (d) The Department of Legal Affairs shall provide the task
 56 force with staff necessary to assist the task force in the

CS/HB 227

2012

57 performance of its duties.

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

64 (4) The task force shall:

65 (a) Collect and organize data concerning the nature and
66 extent of neonatal withdrawal syndrome from prescription drugs
67 in this state;

68 (b) Collect and organize data concerning the costs
69 associated with treating expectant mothers and newborns
70 suffering from withdrawal from prescription drugs;

71 (c) Identify available federal, state, and local programs
72 that provide services to mothers who abuse prescription drugs
73 and newborns who have neonatal withdrawal syndrome; and

74 (d) Evaluate methods to increase public awareness of the
75 dangers associated with prescription drug abuse, particularly to
76 women, expectant mothers, and newborns.

77 (5) The task force shall submit an interim report of its
78 recommendations to the President of the Senate and the Speaker
79 of the House of Representatives by January 15, 2013, and a final
80 report of its recommendations to the President of the Senate and
81 the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15, 2015.

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