

ENROLLED  
CS/CS/HB 227

2012 Legislature

1  
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.

14  
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

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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 15. A representative from the Florida Nurses Association.

53 (c) Members of the task force are entitled to receive  
54 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.  
55 112.061, Florida Statutes.

56 (d) The Department of Legal Affairs shall provide the task

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57 force with staff necessary to assist the task force in the  
58 performance of its duties.

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

65 (4) The task force shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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