

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to sexual predator and sexual offender absconders; creating s. 16.581, F.S.; providing legislative findings; creating the Sexual Predator and Sexual Offender Absconder Strike Force within the Office of the Attorney General; providing definitions; providing for the membership and terms of the strike force; requiring the office to provide administrative services to the strike force; requiring the strike force to organize by a specified date; providing for meetings; specifying the duties of the strike force; requiring an annual report to the Governor and Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 16.581, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

16.581 Sexual Predator and Sexual Offender Absconder Strike Force.—

(1) FINDINGS.—The Legislature finds that there is a need to locate and arrest registered sexual predators and sexual offenders who are under the supervision of the Department of Corrections and who have absconded from such supervision.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is created the Sexual Predator and Sexual Offender Absconder Strike Force within the Office of

27 the Attorney General. The purpose of the strike force is to  
 28 locate registered sexual predators and sexual offenders who are  
 29 under the supervision of the Department of Corrections and who  
 30 have absconded from such supervision.

31 (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

32 (a) "Sexual offender" means a person required to register  
 33 as a sexual offender under s. 943.0435 or s. 944.607.

34 (b) "Sexual predator" means a person required to register  
 35 as a sexual predator under s. 775.21.

36 (4) MEMBERSHIP.—The strike force shall consist of the  
 37 following 11 members or their designees:

38 (a) The Attorney General, who shall serve as chair.

39 (b) The executive director of the Department of Law  
 40 Enforcement, who shall serve as vice chair.

41 (c) The Secretary of Children and Families.

42 (d) The Secretary of Corrections.

43 (e) The chair of the Parole Commission.

44 (f) The executive director of the Department of Highway  
 45 Safety and Motor Vehicles.

46 (g) Five members appointed by the Attorney General,  
 47 consisting of two sheriffs, two chiefs of police, and one state  
 48 attorney. In making these appointments, the Attorney General  
 49 shall consider representation by geography, population,  
 50 ethnicity, and other relevant factors in order to ensure that  
 51 the membership of the strike force is representative of the  
 52 state as a whole.

53           (5) TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP; COMPENSATION; ADMINISTRATIVE  
 54 SERVICES.—

55           (a) The five members appointed by the Attorney General  
 56 shall be appointed to 4-year terms; however, for the purpose of  
 57 providing staggered terms of the initial appointments, two  
 58 members shall be appointed to a 2-year term, two members shall  
 59 be appointed to a 3-year term, and one member shall be appointed  
 60 to a 4-year term. Each of the remaining members is a standing  
 61 member of the strike force and may not serve beyond the time he  
 62 or she holds the position that was the basis for the membership.  
 63 A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
 64 appointment but only for the remainder of the term.

65           (b) The Legislature finds that the strike force serves a  
 66 legitimate state, county, and municipal purpose and that service  
 67 on the strike force is consistent with a member's principal  
 68 service in public office or employment. Therefore, membership on  
 69 the strike force does not disqualify a member from holding any  
 70 other public office or from being employed by a public entity,  
 71 except that that a member of the Legislature may not serve on  
 72 the strike force.

73           (c) Members of the strike force shall serve without  
 74 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and  
 75 travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061.

76           (d) The Office of the Attorney General shall provide  
 77 administrative and support services for the strike force.

78           (6) MEETINGS.—The strike force shall organize by December

79 31, 2014. Thereafter, the strike force shall meet at least four  
80 times per year. Additional meetings may be held if the chair  
81 determines that extraordinary circumstances require an  
82 additional meeting. Members may appear at meetings by electronic  
83 means. A majority of the members of the strike force constitutes  
84 a quorum.

85 (7) DUTIES.— The strike force shall coordinate with the  
86 Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Corrections,  
87 and local law enforcement agencies to:

88 (a) Arrest registered sexual predators and sexual  
89 offenders who are under the supervision of the Department of  
90 Corrections and who have absconded from such supervision.

91 (b) Create a statewide list of known absconders and to  
92 provide such list to local law enforcement agencies.

93 (8) REPORT.—By October 1, 2015, and annually thereafter,  
94 the strike force shall submit a report on its activities and  
95 recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
96 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

97 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.