



929388

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/07/2014	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

---

The Committee on Criminal Justice (Simmons) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

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



929388

11 offenders who are under the supervision of the Department of  
12 Corrections and who have absconded from such supervision.

13 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is created the Sexual Predator and  
14 Sexual Offender Absconder Strike Force within the Department of  
15 Law Enforcement. The purpose of the strike force is to develop  
16 and prioritize coordinated strategies for the apprehension of  
17 registered sexual predators and sexual offenders who are under  
18 the supervision of the Department of Corrections and who have  
19 absconded from such supervision.

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

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

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

25 (4) MEMBERSHIP.—The strike force shall consist of the  
26 following 10 members or their designees:

27 (a) The executive director of the Department of Law  
28 Enforcement, who shall serve as chair.

29 (b) The Secretary of Corrections, who shall serve as vice  
30 chair.

31 (c) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice.

32 (d) The chair of the Parole Commission.

33 (e) The executive director of the Department of Highway  
34 Safety and Motor Vehicles.

35 (f) Five members appointed by the executive director of the  
36 Department of Law Enforcement, consisting of two sheriffs, two  
37 chiefs of police, and one state attorney. In making these  
38 appointments, the executive director of the Department of Law  
39 Enforcement shall consider representation by geography,



929388

40 population, ethnicity, and other relevant factors in order to  
41 ensure that the membership of the strike force is representative  
42 of the state as a whole.

43 (5) TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP; COMPENSATION; ADMINISTRATIVE  
44 SERVICES.—

45 (a) The five members appointed by the executive director of  
46 the Department of Law Enforcement shall be appointed to 4-year  
47 terms; however, for the purpose of providing staggered terms of  
48 the initial appointments, two members shall be appointed to a 2-  
49 year term, two members shall be appointed to a 3-year term, and  
50 one member shall be appointed to a 4-year term. Each of the  
51 remaining members is a standing member of the strike force and  
52 may not serve beyond the time he or she holds the position that  
53 was the basis for the membership. A vacancy shall be filled in  
54 the same manner as the original appointment but only for the  
55 remainder of the term.

56 (b) The Legislature finds that the strike force serves a  
57 legitimate state, county, and municipal purpose and that service  
58 on the strike force is consistent with a member's principal  
59 service in public office or employment. Therefore, membership on  
60 the strike force does not disqualify a member from holding any  
61 other public office or from being employed by a public entity,  
62 except that a member of the Legislature may not serve on the  
63 strike force.

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

67 (d) The Department of Law Enforcement shall provide  
68 administrative and support services for the strike force.



929388

69       (6) MEETINGS.—The strike force shall organize by December  
70 31, 2014. Thereafter, the strike force shall meet at least four  
71 times per year. Additional meetings may be held if the chair  
72 determines that extraordinary circumstances require an  
73 additional meeting. Members may appear at meetings by electronic  
74 means. A majority of the members of the strike force constitutes  
75 a quorum.

76       (7) DUTIES.—The strike force shall coordinate with the  
77 Department of Corrections and local law enforcement agencies to:

78       (a)1. Develop and review a statewide list of known sexual  
79 predator and sexual offender absconders.

80       2. Prioritize those absconders who pose the greatest risk  
81 to public safety by evaluating their criminal history, most  
82 recent dates of offense, length of time as absconders, and other  
83 factors.

84       3. Disseminate the list produced under this paragraph to  
85 local law enforcement agencies.

86       (b) Develop and recommend coordinated statewide strategies  
87 for the apprehension of sexual predator and sexual offender  
88 absconders with special focus on those who pose the greatest  
89 risk to public safety.

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

94       Section 2. For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the sum of  
95 \$101,418 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General  
96 Revenue Fund to the Department of Law Enforcement for the  
97 implementation of this act.



929388

98 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

99

100 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

101 And the title is amended as follows:

102 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
103 and insert:

104 A bill to be entitled

105 An act relating to sexual predator and sexual offender  
106 absconders; creating s. 16.581, F.S.; providing  
107 legislative findings; creating the Sexual Predator and  
108 Sexual Offender Absconder Strike Force within the  
109 Department of Law Enforcement; providing definitions;  
110 providing for the membership and terms of the strike  
111 force; requiring the department to provide  
112 administrative services to the strike force; requiring  
113 the strike force to organize by a specified date;  
114 providing for meetings; specifying the duties of the  
115 strike force; requiring an annual report to the  
116 Governor and Legislature; providing an appropriation;  
117 providing an effective date.

118