

By Senator Detert

28-00705B-14

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the expansion of school counseling  
3       resources; establishing the Blue Ribbon Panel Task  
4       Force within the Department of Education; providing  
5       the purpose, membership, and initial meeting time of  
6       the task force; providing for the election of a chair  
7       and vice chair of the task force; providing the method  
8       for filling a vacancy in the position of chair or vice  
9       chair; providing specified duties of the task force;  
10      requiring the department to provide staff and  
11      administrative support to the task force; providing  
12      meeting times for the task force; providing a quorum;  
13      providing that members of the task force serve without  
14      compensation; providing that members are entitled to  
15      per diem and travel expenses; requiring the task force  
16      to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature  
17      by a specified date; providing for termination of the  
18      task force; providing an effective date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22       Section 1. The Blue Ribbon Panel Task Force.—

23       (1) To ensure that public school students in this state  
24 have access to high-quality, evidence-based school counseling  
25 programs and to support the funding of additional school  
26 counselor positions in the public schools where the positions  
27 are needed, the Blue Ribbon Panel Task Force is established  
28 within the Department of Education. The purpose of the task  
29 force is to study whether there is a demonstrable relationship

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30 between expanding counseling resources in public schools and  
31 early detection of mental health issues in students, improved  
32 academic performance and student attendance, higher graduation  
33 rates, and decreased behavioral disruptions on the part of  
34 students. The task force shall comply with the requirements of  
35 s. 20.052, Florida Statutes, except as otherwise provided in  
36 this section.

37 (2) The task force is comprised of the following eight  
38 members:

39 (a) A member from one of the regional workforce boards from  
40 Workforce Florida, Inc., appointed by the Governor.

41 (b) A principal, or the principal's designee, of a public  
42 school that received the Recognized-ASCA-Model-Program (RAMP)  
43 designation from the American School Counselor Association  
44 (ASCA), appointed by the Commissioner of Education.

45 (c) A member of a parent-teacher organization or parent-  
46 teacher association in this state, appointed by the Commissioner  
47 of Education.

48 (d) The chair of the board of directors of the Florida  
49 School Counselor Association, or his or her designee.

50 (e) The chair of the board of directors of the American  
51 School Counselor Association, or his or her designee.

52 (f) A school administrator in this state, appointed by the  
53 Commissioner of Education.

54 (g) A member of the Senate, appointed by the President of  
55 the Senate.

56 (h) A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by  
57 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

58 (3) The appointments to the task force must be completed by

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59 August 1, 2014. The task force shall hold its initial meeting by  
60 October 1, 2014, and elect a chair and a vice chair. A vacancy  
61 in the office of chair or vice chair shall be filled by a vote  
62 of the remaining members.

63 (4) The task force shall:

64 (a) Study whether increasing the number of certified school  
65 counselors in the public schools is demonstrably beneficial to  
66 students and recommend a methodology for assessing the impact of  
67 such increased staffing.

68 (b) Review and recommend updates to the Florida's School  
69 Counseling and Guidance Framework for the enhancement of  
70 district-level leadership and support.

71 (c) Recommend a grant process to assist in the funding of  
72 additional school counselor positions where the positions are  
73 needed.

74 (5) The Department of Education shall provide staff and  
75 administrative support to the task force.

76 (6) The task force shall meet quarterly and at other times  
77 at the call of the chair or as determined by a majority of task  
78 force members.

79 (7) Five members of the task force constitute a quorum, and  
80 an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present is  
81 required for final action.

82 (8) Members of the task force shall serve without  
83 compensation. Members are entitled to reimbursement for per diem  
84 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

85 (9) (a) By December 15, 2016, the task force shall submit a  
86 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
87 Speaker of the House of Representatives which states the task

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88 force's:89 1. Findings, conclusions, and recommendations regarding the  
90 study described in paragraph (4) (a);91 2. Recommended updates for the Florida's School Counseling  
92 and Guidance Framework as provided in paragraph (4) (b); and93 3. Recommendations for implementation of the grant process  
94 specified in paragraph (4) (c).95 (b) The task force terminates upon submission of the  
96 report.

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