

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Public Health Task Force;
 3 creating the task force within the Legislature for a
 4 specified purpose; requiring the Office of Program
 5 Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability to
 6 provide research services to the task force; providing
 7 for membership, meetings, and duties of the task
 8 force; requiring the task force to submit a report to
 9 the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;
 10 providing for expiration of the task force; providing
 11 an effective date.

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 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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15 Section 1. Public Health Task Force.—The Public Health
 16 Task Force is established within the Legislature to
 17 comprehensively assess the Department of Health's resources and
 18 capacity to sustainably deliver public health services in this
 19 state, and to make recommendations for improvements to the
 20 department's framework for statewide implementation of such
 21 services. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental
 22 Accountability shall provide its research services to the task
 23 force.

24 (1) MEMBERSHIP.—

25 (a) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- 26 | 1. The State Surgeon General or his or her designee.
- 27 | 2. Three county health department directors, each
 28 | representing a minority county, a rural county, or an urban
 29 | county, appointed by the State Surgeon General.
- 30 | 3. One representative from each of the following
 31 | organizations, appointed by their respective organizations:
- 32 | a. Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.
- 33 | b. Florida Public Health Association.
- 34 | c. Florida Medical Association Health, Education, and
 35 | Public Policy Committee.
- 36 | d. Florida Association of County Health Officers.
- 37 | e. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
 38 | Institute of Public Health.
- 39 | f. University of South Florida College of Public Health.
- 40 | g. Public Health Accreditation Board.
- 41 | h. Florida Environmental Health Association.
- 42 | (b) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the
 43 | same manner as the original appointment.
- 44 | (c) The task force shall elect a chair from among its
 45 | members.
- 46 | (d) Members shall serve without compensation but are
 47 | entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses
 48 | pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.
- 49 | (2) MEETINGS.—
- 50 | (a) The task force shall convene its first meeting by

51 October 1, 2021, and shall meet as often as necessary to fulfill
52 its responsibilities under this section.

53 (b) Meetings may be conducted in person or by
54 teleconference or other electronic means.

55 (3) DUTIES.—The task force shall do all of the following:

56 (a) Analyze the department's ability to prepare for,
57 respond to, and mitigate the effects of natural and manmade
58 disasters of public health significance, including, but not
59 limited to, hurricanes, floods, communicable disease, epidemics,
60 pandemics, and bioterrorism.

61 (b) Analyze the department's ability to provide public
62 health services statewide within the existing framework provided
63 in chapter 154, Florida Statutes, and identify any gaps in
64 service, paying particular attention to all of the following:

65 1. The impacts of environmental factors on human health.

66 2. Community health assessments and development of
67 evidence-based community and state health improvement plans.

68 3. Population and community health.

69 4. Chronic disease mitigation and prevention.

70 5. Communicable disease control.

71 6. Maternal and child health.

72 7. Information infrastructure to support the department's
73 capacity to conduct analyses, data integration, and integration
74 of analyses as required for the department to become an
75 information agency in the digital age.

76 8. Preparedness planning, response, and mitigation.

77 (c) Assess historical trends and analyze the department's
78 funding and staffing, with the goal of establishing sustainable
79 funding for the department's activities.

80 (d) Assess historical trends and analyze the department's
81 allocation and distribution of funds to county health
82 departments, with the goal of overcoming declines in state and
83 federal funding coupled with the state's population growth and
84 increasing vulnerable populations.

85 (e) Analyze the department's staffing, including the
86 levels and types of public health professionals required to
87 maintain a robust public health department workforce at the
88 state and local levels. Such public health professions include,
89 but are not limited to, physicians, public health nurses,
90 epidemiologists, health educators, social workers, and
91 sanitarians.

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93 When conducting its assessments and analyses under this
94 subsection, the task force must reference the National Public
95 Health Performance Standards, published by the United States
96 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the 10 Essential
97 Public Health Services, as revised in June 2020, published by
98 the Public Health National Center for Innovations and the de
99 Beaumont Foundation; and other relevant guidelines issued by the
100 United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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101 (4) REPORT.—The task force shall submit a report of its
102 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of
103 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
104 September 30, 2022.

105 (5) EXPIRATION.—This section expires October 1, 2022.
106 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.