

By Senator Powell

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Task Force on Public Safety in  
3           Urban and Inner-City Communities; providing a short  
4           title; providing legislative findings and intent;  
5           creating the Task Force on Public Safety in Urban and  
6           Inner-City Communities; providing for membership and  
7           staff support; providing requirements for meetings;  
8           specifying duties; providing for powers; requiring the  
9           executive director of the Department of Law  
10          Enforcement to issue subpoenas; authorizing the task  
11          force to seek assistance from state agencies and to  
12          access certain exempt or confidential and exempt  
13          information or records; providing requirements for  
14          such access; requiring a report; providing for sunset  
15          of the task force and the repeal of provisions;  
16          providing an appropriation; providing an effective  
17          date.

18  
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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21           Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Public Safety in  
22 Urban and Inner-City Communities Act."

23           Section 2. The Legislature finds that there is a need to  
24 comprehensively address the crisis of crime and gun violence in  
25 Florida's urban and inner-city communities. The Legislature  
26 intends to address this crisis by providing cities, counties,  
27 local and state law enforcement agencies, and the courts with  
28 the tools to enhance and promote safe neighborhoods and  
29 communities by enhanced coordination between local and state law

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30 enforcement entities.

31 Section 3. Task Force on Public Safety in Urban and Inner-  
32 City Communities.-

33 (1) There is created within the Department of Law  
34 Enforcement the Task Force on Public Safety in Urban and Inner-  
35 City Communities, a task force as defined in s. 20.03(5),  
36 Florida Statutes.

37 (2)(a) The task force shall convene no later than September  
38 1, 2024, and shall be composed of 16 members. Five members shall  
39 be appointed by the President of the Senate, five members shall  
40 be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
41 five members shall be appointed by the Governor. The chair of  
42 the Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys,  
43 or his or her designee, shall serve as a member of the task  
44 force. From the members of the task force, the Governor shall  
45 appoint the chair. Appointments must be made by August 1, 2024.  
46 The executive director of the Department of Law Enforcement, the  
47 Secretary of Juvenile Justice, and the Secretary of Children and  
48 Families shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the  
49 task force. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the officer  
50 who appointed the member. A vacancy on the task force shall be  
51 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

52 (b) The General Counsel of the Department of Law  
53 Enforcement shall serve as the general counsel for the task  
54 force.

55 (c) The Department of Law Enforcement staff and the  
56 Department of Juvenile Justice staff, as assigned by the chair,  
57 shall assist the task force in performing its duties.

58 (d) The task force shall meet on a quarterly basis or as

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59 necessary to conduct its work at the call of the chair and at a  
60 time designated by the chair at locations throughout the state.  
61 The task force may not conduct its meetings through  
62 teleconferences or other similar means.

63 (e) Task force members are entitled to receive  
64 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.  
65 112.061, Florida Statutes.

66 (3) The task force shall investigate system failures and  
67 the causes and reasons for high crime and gun violence incidents  
68 in urban and inner-city neighborhoods and communities. In  
69 addition, the task force shall develop recommendations for  
70 solutions, programs, services, and strategies for improved  
71 interagency communication between local and state governmental  
72 agencies that will help facilitate the reduction of crime and  
73 gun violence in urban and inner-city neighborhoods and  
74 communities.

75 (4) The task force has the power to investigate. The task  
76 force may delegate to its investigators the authority to  
77 administer oaths and affirmations.

78 (5) The executive director of the Department of Law  
79 Enforcement shall issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of  
80 witnesses to testify before the task force and the production of  
81 any books, papers, records, documentary evidence, and other  
82 items, including exempt or confidential and exempt information  
83 or records, relevant to the performance of its duties or to the  
84 exercise of its powers. The chair of the task force, or his or  
85 her designee, may administer all oaths and affirmations in the  
86 manner prescribed by law to witnesses who appear before the task  
87 force for the purpose of testifying in any matter of which the

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88 task force desires evidence. In the case of a refusal to obey a  
89 subpoena, the task force may make application to any circuit  
90 court of this state having jurisdiction to order the witness to  
91 appear before the task force and to produce evidence, if so  
92 ordered, or to give testimony relevant to the matter in  
93 question. Failure to obey the order may be punished by the court  
94 as contempt.

95 (6) The task force may call upon appropriate state agencies  
96 for such professional assistance as may be needed in the  
97 discharge of its duties, and such agencies shall provide such  
98 assistance in a timely manner.

99 (7) Notwithstanding any other law, the task force may  
100 request and shall be provided with access to any information or  
101 records, including exempt or confidential and exempt information  
102 or records, which pertain to crime and gun violence incidents in  
103 this state's urban and inner-city neighborhoods and communities.  
104 Information or records obtained by the task force which are  
105 otherwise exempt or confidential and exempt shall retain such  
106 exempt or confidential and exempt status, and the task force may  
107 not disclose any such information or records.

108 (8) The task force shall submit a report on its findings  
109 and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the  
110 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives before  
111 January 1, 2026. The task force shall sunset December 31, 2025,  
112 and this section is repealed on that date.

113 Section 4. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of  
114 \$600,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the  
115 Department of Law Enforcement for the operation of the task  
116 force.

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Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.