By Senator Berman

_ [26-00693A-25 2025762
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to preventing the spread of avian
3	influenza; creating the Be Ready Task Force within the
4	Department of Health for a specified purpose;
5	providing for membership and meetings of the task
6	force; requiring the task force to develop specified
7	recommendations; requiring the task force to submit a
8	report of its recommendations to the Governor and the
9	Legislature by a specified date; providing for
10	dissolution of the task force; providing an effective
11	date.
12	
13	WHEREAS, avian influenza cases are rising in the animal
14	population in the United States, and
15	WHEREAS, there have been at least 61 reported cases of
16	animal-to-human transmission since April 2024, and
17	WHEREAS, a recent fatal case in Louisiana showed a genetic
18	mutation that could possibly lead to human-to-human
19	transmission, and
20	WHEREAS, it is imperative that Florida convene a task force
21	to prepare a comprehensive statewide response strategy to
22	prevent the spread of avian influenza in this state, NOW,
23	THEREFORE,
24	
25	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
26	
27	Section 1. There is hereby created a Be Ready Task Force, a
28	task force as defined in s. 20.03(5), Florida Statutes, within
29	the Department of Health for the purpose of developing a

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30 comprehensive statewide response strategy to prevent the spread 31 of avian influenza in the livestock population of this state and 32 preparing for the probability of human-to-human transmission of 33 avian influenza in this state. The department shall provide 34 administrative support to the task force. 35 (1)(a) The task force shall be composed of the following 36 members: 37 1. Two physicians specializing in infectious diseases who 38 are on staff with a medical school in this state and have a 39 background in public health, appointed by the Governor. 40 2. The State Surgeon General and the Deputy Secretary of 41 Health or their designees. The State Surgeon General or his or 42 her designee shall serve as the chair of the task force. 43 3. Two representatives of the Division of Emergency 44 Management, appointed by the director. 45 4. Three representatives from county health departments, 46 with at least one representative from a rural county, appointed 47 by the Governor. 48 5. One representatives of the Department of Agriculture and 40 Consumer Services who have experience working with the livestock 41 industry, appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. 42 (b) The task force shall meet upon the call of the chair 43 and as often as necessary to complete its duties under this 44 section. The task force may conduct its meetings through 45 teleconference or other electronic means. 46 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without 47 by the generation but may be reimbursed for part diam and travel		26-00693A-25 2025762
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59	expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.
60	(2) The task force shall develop recommendations on all of
61	the following:
62	(a) Monitoring and reporting livestock with avian
63	influenza, including the location for each outbreak.
64	(b) Wastewater monitoring for avian influenza transmission.
65	(c) How to cost-effectively implement statewide testing for
66	avian influenza.
67	(d) Ways in which the state can implement a statewide
68	response to prevent the spread of avian influenza among
69	livestock as well as humans.
70	(3) The task force shall submit a report of its
71	recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
72	and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1,
73	2025. The task force is dissolved upon submission of its report.
74	Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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