

SENATE BILL 1316

By Yarbro

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 68, relative to the state government advisory task force on extreme weather.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) There is created the state government advisory task force on extreme weather.

(b) The task force shall consist of seventeen (17) members as follows:

(1) One (1) member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(2) One (1) member of the senate appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(3) One (1) representative from the department of agriculture appointed by the commissioner of agriculture;

(4) One (1) representative from the department of health appointed by the commissioner of health;

(5) One (1) representative from the department of environment and conservation appointed by the commissioner of environment and conservation;

(6) One (1) representative from the department of commerce and insurance appointed by the commissioner of commerce and insurance;

(7) One (1) representative from the department of finance and administration appointed by the commissioner of finance and administration;

(8) One (1) representative from the department of human services appointed by the commissioner of human services;

(9) One (1) representative from the department of safety appointed by the commissioner of safety;

(10) One (1) representative from the department of tourist development appointed by the commissioner of tourist development;

(11) One (1) representative from the department of transportation appointed by the commissioner of transportation;

(12) The director of the Tennessee emergency management agency;

(13) One (1) instructor involved in the scientific program of an institute of higher learning in this state who specializes in the area of meteorology or climatology, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(14) One (1) county mayor appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(15) One (1) city mayor appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(16) One (1) Tennessee business representative appointed by the speaker of the senate; and

(17) One (1) public member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(c)

(1) The task force shall:

(A) Assess the historical, present, and projected occurrence of extreme weather events in this state, which include, but are not limited to, flooding, wildfires, heat waves, severe storms, and drought;

(B) Examine potential causes and contributing factors to the occurrence of extreme weather events in this state, including, but not

limited to, potential causes and contributing factors to any projected increase in the occurrence of extreme weather events in this state; and

(C) Develop recommendations to address problems associated with the occurrence of extreme weather events in this state, including, but not limited to, problems associated with any projected increase in the occurrence of extreme weather events in this state, and any barriers to the state's provision of services and resources due to the occurrence of extreme weather events in this state.

(2) The task force shall include an examination of the following in its assessment and recommendations:

(A) The economic impact of any projected increase in the occurrence of extreme weather events in this state, including, but not limited to, the impact on forestry, agriculture, water resources, zoning, hunting, infrastructure, and public health;

(B) Proposals to reduce the occurrence of extreme weather events in this state or to reverse any projected increase in the occurrence of extreme weather events in this state;

(C) Legislative remedies for consideration by the general assembly; and

(D) Necessary state policies or responses, including directions for the provision of clear and coordinated services and support to reduce the occurrence and impact of extreme weather events in this state.

(d)

(1) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for any expenses incurred while participating in the business of the task force.

(2) All legislative members of the task force shall remain members of the task force so long as they remain members of the general assembly and until the task force reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

(3) Vacancies among the fifteen (15) non-legislative members of the task force must be filled in the same manner as in the original selection of members. Vacancies among the two (2) legislative members of the task force must be filled in the same manner as in the original selection of members; provided, however, that if a vacancy among the two (2) legislative members of the task force occurs while the general assembly is not in session, the speakers of the respective bodies shall fill the vacancies.

(e) The selection of members of the task force should be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

(f) The member of the general assembly with the most seniority in the general assembly shall call the first meeting of the task force, at which time the members shall elect a chair and vice-chair.

(g) The task force must agree upon its findings and recommendations by a majority vote of its total membership.

(h) The department of environment and conservation shall provide necessary administrative support at the request of the task force. The chair of the task force may call on appropriate state agencies for reasonable assistance in the work of the task force.

(i) The task force shall hold public meetings and utilize technological means, such as webcasts, to gather feedback on the recommendations from the general public and from persons and families affected by extreme weather in this state.

(j)

(1) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the general assembly no later than January 1, 2018.

(2) This section shall be repealed on January 1, 2018.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.