



S.B. 78

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Jordan, Amstutz, Austria, Coughlin, R.A. Gardner, Harris, Hottinger, Jacobson, Mumper, Prentiss, Wachtmann, White

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes the Task Force on Faith-Based Organizations.
- Requires the Task Force to recommend the best means for the state to assist faith-based organizations in providing public services and in cooperating with public agencies in assisting those who receive public services.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill creates the Task Force on Faith-Based Organizations and requires it (1) to recommend the best means to provide state and federal funds to faith-based organizations so that they may provide public services in compliance with the federal and state constitutions and (2) to recommend the best means to remove any barriers that may exist to faith-based organizations cooperating with public agencies in assisting those who receive public services. (Section 1(A)(1) and (E).)

The Task Force consists of 17 members. The Directors of Administrative Services, Aging, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Budget and Management, Development, Job and Family Services, and Youth Services must each appoint one employee to the Task Force. The Speaker of the House of Representatives must appoint two members of the House of Representatives from different political parties. The President of the Senate must appoint two members of the Senate from different political parties; one must be from the black legislative caucus. The Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President of the Senate each must appoint two representatives of the faith-based and nonprofit community. (Section 1(A)(2), (3), and (4).)

Appointments to the Task Force must be made within 30 days after the bill's effective date. Vacancies must be filled in the same manner as original appointments. The members will serve without compensation. (Section 1(B).)

The Task Force is required to elect a chairperson and other necessary officers at its initial meeting. The chairperson must be a member who is also a member of the House of Representatives. The Department of Job and Family Services is required to provide office space, staff, supplies, services, and other support to the Task Force. (Section 1(C) and (D).)

The bill states that it does not prevent any faith-based organization from providing public services, or from cooperating with public agencies in assisting those who receive public services, in any manner authorized by current law (Section 1(F)).

The Task Force is required to issue a report of its recommendations no later than eight months after the bill's effective date. It must send copies of the report to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President of the Senate. The Task Force ceases to exist upon the issuance of the report or 12 months after the bill's effective date, whichever occurs first. (Sections 1(G) and 2.)

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE | JOURNAL ENTRY |
|---------------|-------------|----------------------|
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