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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 4959

03/14/2024 Authored by Pinto and Moller The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; establishing the Task Force on Holistic and Effective
1.3 Responses to Illicit Drug Use; requiring a report; appropriating money.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. TASK FORCE ON HOLISTIC AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO
1.6 ILLICIT DRUG USE.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The Task Force on Holistic and Effective Responses to
1.8 Illicit Drug Use is established to review the reports on approaches to address illicit drug use
1.9 in Minnesota prepared and submitted pursuant to Laws 2023, chapter 52, article 2, section
1.10 3, subdivision 8, paragraph (v); develop a phased timeline for implementation of policy
1.11 changes; and make policy and funding recommendations to the legislature.

1.12 Subd. 2. Membership. (a) The task force consists of the following members:

1.13 (1) the state public defender or a designee;

1.14 (2) two county attorneys, one from a county in the metropolitan area as defined in
1.15 Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and one from a county outside the
1.16 metropolitan area, appointed by the Minnesota County Attorneys Association;

1.17 (3) one peace officer, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 626.84, subdivision 1,
1.18 paragraph (c), appointed by the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association;

1.19 (4) one peace officer, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 626.84, subdivision 1,
1.20 paragraph (c), appointed by the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association;

2.1 (5) two medical professionals, of whom one has expertise in substance use disorder  
2.2 treatment and one has experience working with harm reduction providers, appointed by the  
2.3 Minnesota Medical Association;

2.4 (6) one member appointed by the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers;

2.5 (7) one member representing a Tribal government, appointed by the Indian Affairs  
2.6 Council;

2.7 (8) one member with knowledge of expungement law, representing criminal legal reform  
2.8 organizations;

2.9 (9) one academic researcher specializing in drug use or drug policy;

2.10 (10) one member with lived experience with drug use;

2.11 (11) one member who resides in a community that has been disproportionately impacted  
2.12 by drug sentencing laws; and

2.13 (12) one member representing an organization with knowledge of youth intervention  
2.14 services and the juvenile justice system.

2.15 (b) The members identified in paragraph (a), clauses (8) to (12), must be appointed by  
2.16 the governor.

2.17 (c) Appointments must be made no later than August 31, 2024.

2.18 (d) Members of the task force serve without compensation.

2.19 (e) Members of the task force serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority or until  
2.20 the task force expires. Vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority consistent with  
2.21 the qualifications of the vacating member required by this subdivision.

2.22 Subd. 3. **Officers; meetings.** (a) The state public defender or the state public defender's  
2.23 designee shall convene the first meeting of the task force by September 30, 2024.

2.24 (b) At the first meeting, the members of the task force shall elect a chair and vice-chair,  
2.25 and may elect other officers as the members deem necessary.

2.26 (c) The task force shall meet monthly or as determined by the chair. The task force shall  
2.27 meet sufficiently enough to accomplish the tasks identified in this section. Meetings of the  
2.28 task force are subject to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13D.

2.29 (d) Upon the request of the task force or researchers at Rise Research, the task force  
2.30 shall receive public data and summary data, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 13.02,  
2.31 subdivision 19, from executive branch agencies and local law enforcement agencies,

3.1 including the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Public  
 3.2 Safety, Department of Corrections, Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission, county  
 3.3 attorneys, and local public health agencies. The task force may also work with the judicial  
 3.4 branch to receive relevant information. The task force may request the assistance of other  
 3.5 organizations and individuals with experience and expertise in the impact of laws related  
 3.6 to drug policy and effective health responses to illicit drug use.

3.7 Subd. 4. **Staff; meeting space.** The commissioner of public safety shall provide support  
 3.8 staff, office and meeting space, and administrative services for the task force.

3.9 Subd. 5. **Reports.** The task force must submit an initial report and a final report to the  
 3.10 chairs and ranking members of the house of representatives and senate committees with  
 3.11 jurisdiction over public safety, health, and human services on the work, findings, and  
 3.12 recommendations of the task force. The recommendations of the task force must include  
 3.13 proposed legislation and implementation plans. The task force must submit the initial report  
 3.14 by February 15, 2025, and must submit the final report by February 15, 2026.

3.15 Subd. 6. **Expiration.** The task force expires upon submission of its final report or upon  
 3.16 adjournment sine die of the 94th Minnesota Legislature, whichever is later.

3.17 Sec. 2. **TASK FORCE ON HOLISTIC AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO ILLICIT**  
 3.18 **DRUG USE; APPROPRIATION.**

3.19 \$..... in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of  
 3.20 public safety to provide support staff, office and meeting space, and administrative services  
 3.21 for the Task Force on Holistic and Effective Responses to Illicit Drug Use. The base for  
 3.22 this appropriation is \$..... in fiscal year 2026 and \$0 in fiscal year 2027.