

HOUSE BILL 2266

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and
Title 71, relative to the poverty task force.

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

SECTION 1.

(a) There is created the poverty task force.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) The chair of the finance, ways and means committee of the senate;

(2) The chair of the finance, ways and means committee of the house of
representatives;

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

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

(5) The commissioner of children's services or the commissioner's
designee;

(6) The commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee;

(7) The deputy commissioner for the bureau of TennCare or the deputy
commissioner's designee;

(8) The commissioner of economic and community development or the
commissioner's designee;

(9) The executive director of the Tennessee commission on children and
youth;

(10) The executive director of the Tennessee commission on aging and disability or the director's designee;

(11) The commissioner of human services or the commissioner's designee;

(12) A representative from the Room in the Inn program of Middle Tennessee selected by the agency;

(13) A representative from Catholic Charities in Tennessee selected by the agency;

(14) A representative from Area Relief Ministries of Jackson, Tennessee selected by the agency;

(15) A representative of the Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee selected by the agency;

(16) A representative of Neighborhood Christian Center of Memphis, Tennessee selected by the agency;

(17) A representative of the Regional Interfaith Alliance of Jackson, Tennessee selected by the agency; and

(18) A person living in poverty selected by vote of the representatives designated by subdivisions (a)(12)-(17), at the first meeting of the task force.

(c)

(1) The task force shall:

(A) Assess the current and future impact of poverty on the residents of Tennessee;

(B) Examine the existing barriers, services and resources addressing the needs of persons living in poverty and their families; and

(C) Develop a strategy to mobilize a state response to the poverty crisis.

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

(A) A determination of the economic and human impact of poverty in Tennessee;

(B) A review of the remedies to reduce the number of individuals and families living in poverty in Tennessee;

(C) Legislative remedies for consideration in the 109th general assembly; and

(D) Needed state policies or responses, including directions for the provision of clear and coordinated services and supports to persons living in poverty and strategies to address any identified gaps in services.

(d)

(1) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in attending meetings from their respective appointing agency according to the policies of the agency for expense reimbursement.

(2) Each legislative member of the task force shall be entitled to expenses in accord with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106, for each day the legislative member attends a meeting of the task force; provided, that no member shall receive additional legislative compensation when the general assembly is in session or if a member is being paid any other payments on the same dates for attendance on other state business.

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

(f) The governor shall call the first meeting of the task force at which time the members shall elect a chair and vice-chair.

(g) The department of human services shall provide necessary administrative support for 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.

(h) 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 poverty.

(i) The task force shall submit its findings and recommendations to the governor and the general assembly in the form of a state anti-poverty plan no later than January 15, 2015, at which time the task force shall terminate and stand dissolved and discharged from any further duties.

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

it.