

SENATE BILL No. 319

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: Noncode.

Synopsis: Study of pharmacy deserts. Creates a task force to study pharmacy deserts in Indiana. Requires the task force to report findings and recommendations to the general assembly and the governor not later than November 1, 2023.

Effective: Upon passage.

Melton

January 11, 2022, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Provider Services.



Second Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2022)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 319

A BILL FOR AN ACT concerning health.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) As used in this
- 2 SECTION, "task force" refers to the pharmacy desert prevention
- 3 task force established by subsection (c).
- 4 (b) As used in this SECTION, "pharmacy desert" means a
- 5 geographic area where access to a pharmacy (as defined in
- 6 IC 25-26-13-2) is limited, as determined by the state department of
- 7 health. The term includes a:
- 8 (1) rural town or urban neighborhood in which:
- 9 (A) at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the households
- 10 are below the federal income poverty level (as defined in
- 11 IC 12-15-2-1); or
- 12 (B) the median family income of residents is not more than
- 13 eighty percent (80%) of the median family income in
- 14 Indiana;
- 15 (2) rural town, urban neighborhood, or metropolitan census
- 16 tract in which at least:
- 17 (A) five hundred (500) residents reside; or
- 18 (B) thirty-three percent (33%) of the population resides;



- 1 more than one (1) mile away from any pharmacy; or
 2 (3) nonmetropolitan census tract in which at least:
 3 (A) five hundred (500) residents reside; or
 4 (B) thirty-three percent (33%) of the population resides;
 5 more than ten (10) miles away from any pharmacy.
 6 (c) The pharmacy desert prevention task force is established.
 7 (d) The task force consists of the following twenty (20) members
 8 appointed by the governor:
 9 (1) The commissioner of the state department of health or the
 10 commissioner's designee.
 11 (2) The secretary of family and social services or the
 12 secretary's designee.
 13 (3) One (1) member recommended by the president of the
 14 Indiana board of pharmacy.
 15 (4) One (1) member recommended by the board of the
 16 Indiana Rural Health Association.
 17 (5) One (1) member recommended by the chairperson of the
 18 National Association of Chain Drug Stores.
 19 (6) One (1) member recommended by the president of the
 20 Indiana Pharmacists Association.
 21 (7) One (1) member recommended by the chief executive
 22 officer of Accelerate Indiana Municipalities.
 23 (8) One (1) member recommended by the dean of the Purdue
 24 University College of Pharmacy.
 25 (9) One (1) member who represents a patient advocacy group
 26 in Indiana.
 27 (10) One (1) member who is a student enrolled in pharmacy
 28 school, recommended by the Indiana Pharmacists Association.
 29 (11) One (1) member who is a licensed pharmacist and
 30 employed by an independent pharmacy.
 31 (12) Nine (9) members:
 32 (A) each of whom is a licensed pharmacist;
 33 (B) each of whom resides in a different congressional
 34 district of Indiana; and
 35 (C) not more than two (2) of whom may be employed by
 36 the same employer.
 37 (e) Not later than July 1, 2022, the governor shall appoint one
 38 (1) member to serve as the chairperson of the task force and one (1)
 39 member to serve as the vice chairperson of the task force.
 40 (f) Not later than November 1, 2022, the chairperson shall call
 41 the first meeting of the task force. Thereafter, the task force shall
 42 meet at the call of the chairperson.



1 **(g) A quorum of the task force consists of eleven (11) members.**
2 **The affirmative votes of at least eleven (11) members are necessary**
3 **for the task force to approve the final report and take any other**
4 **official action.**

5 **(h) The task force shall do the following:**

6 **(1) Identify pharmacy deserts in Indiana.**

7 **(2) Examine public and private programs in Indiana and**
8 **other states that address the problem of pharmacy deserts,**
9 **including programs that specifically address pharmacy**
10 **deserts in rural and urban areas.**

11 **(3) Identify programs and other solutions to eliminate**
12 **pharmacy deserts in Indiana, including public, private, and**
13 **public-private partnerships.**

14 **(4) Identify sources of revenue for pharmacy desert**
15 **programs.**

16 **(i) Each member of the task force who is not a state employee is**
17 **not entitled to the minimum salary per diem provided by**
18 **IC 4-10-11-2.1(b). The member is, however, entitled to**
19 **reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided under**
20 **IC 4-13-1-4 and other expenses actually incurred in connection**
21 **with the member's duties as provided in the state policies and**
22 **procedures established by the Indiana department of**
23 **administration and approved by the budget agency.**

24 **(j) Each member of the task force who is a state employee is**
25 **entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided under**
26 **IC 4-13-1-4 and other expenses actually incurred in connection**
27 **with the member's duties as provided in the state policies and**
28 **procedures established by the Indiana department of**
29 **administration and approved by the budget agency.**

30 **(k) The state department of health shall do the following:**

31 **(1) Staff and provide administrative assistance to the task**
32 **force.**

33 **(2) Pay the expenses of the task force from appropriations**
34 **made to the state department of health.**

35 **(l) Not later than November 1, 2023, the task force shall report**
36 **the task force's findings and recommendations to the general**
37 **assembly and the governor. The report to the general assembly**
38 **must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.**

39 **(m) This SECTION expires November 1, 2023.**

40 **SECTION 2. An emergency is declared for this act.**

