

Amendment No. 1 to HB0214

Halford  
Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 875**

**House Bill No. 214\***

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 43, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a) There is created the farm and forestry task force, hereinafter referred to as the "task force," composed of farmers and foresters to develop and implement a strategic plan to position this state as a leading hub for agri-tech and value-added agriculture.

(b)

(1) The task force consists of nine (9) members, including at least six (6) full-time farmers or foresters who derive their primary income from crop, forestry, or livestock production, or directly related farming activities such as agritourism, on-farm education, or farmer-owned value-added activities. The task force must also include three (3) residents of this state with a controlling interest in an agricultural business that is engaged in local processing or agricultural-related innovation.

(2) The members of the task force must represent diverse segments of the agriculture industry, including crops, livestock, local food, and urban agriculture.

(3) The governor shall appoint the nine (9) members, with input from the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, the Center for Profitable Agriculture, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, Launch Tennessee, and AgLaunch Initiative.

(c) Members of the task force shall elect a chair from their membership.

(d) Members of the task force shall commence the process of developing a statewide strategy for agriculture innovation and entrepreneurship, led by the task force, with input from the state's universities, state departments, state commodity organizations, the agriculture and forestry industry, companies, and other interested stakeholders.

(e) The task force must be managed through the department of agriculture, in collaboration with the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, the Center for Profitable Agriculture, and AgLaunch Initiative.

(f) In making appointments, the governor shall strive to ensure that the task force is composed of members who represent the geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of this state and who are diverse in race, sex, perspective, and experience.

(g) The commissioner of agriculture shall call the first meeting of the task force, which must conduct at least three (3) regularly scheduled meetings per year to hear testimony from members of the public and to solicit input from persons with expertise in:

(1) Current agricultural practices;

(2) Forecasting trends related to consumer purchasing patterns, product development, crop diversity, and agricultural technologies; and

(3) The economic impact of agriculture on rural and urban areas of this state.

(h) The chair of the task force may call on appropriate state agencies for reasonable assistance in the work of the task force.

(i) The members of the task force serve without compensation.

(j) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the general assembly no later than June 30, 2022, including an implementation plan and recommended legislative action. The task force recommendations may include continuation of the task force through the implementation stage.

(k) This section is repealed on July 1, 2022.

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