

SENATE BILL 66

By Gilmore

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 33, relative to mental health facilities.

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

SECTION 1. The general assembly shall create a special joint task force to study issues relating to state mental health facilities. The study must include a review of best practices and approaches to the management and operation of state mental health facilities. The task force shall study and consider issues related to the training of mental health facility staff, patients' rights, patient abuse, the appointment of conservators, and any other issues related to mental health facilities in this state that the task force deems appropriate.

SECTION 2. Seven members shall be appointed to the task force. The speaker of the senate shall appoint three persons from its membership, one of whom being a member serving on the health and welfare committee. The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint four persons from its membership, one of whom being a member serving on the health committee.

SECTION 3. The speaker of the senate shall designate the initial chair of the task force, and the initial chair shall call its first meeting. At the first meeting, the task force shall elect from among its membership a chair, vice chair, and any other officers the task force deems necessary.

SECTION 4. The department of mental health and substance abuse services, as well as any other state agency that provides inpatient mental health services, shall provide assistance to the task force upon request of the chair.

SECTION 5. The special joint task force shall meet only on days in which the general assembly has scheduled a floor session to consider legislation or on days standing committees of the general assembly are scheduled to meet.

SECTION 6. The task force shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the health and welfare committee of the senate and the health committee of the house of representatives, no later than February 15, 2020, at which time the task force will cease to exist.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.