

SENATE BILL 788

By Dickerson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;  
Title 8 and Title 9, relative to the creation of the  
task force on government spending and  
accountability.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-240(a), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

( ) Task force on government spending and accountability, created by Section 2 of this act;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9, Chapter 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new part:

**9-4-5701.**

(a) There is created, as an independent entity of state government, the task force on government spending and accountability ("task force"). For administrative purposes, the task force shall be attached to the office of the comptroller of the treasury for all administrative matters relating to receipts, disbursements, expense accounts, budget, payroll, audit, and other similarly related administrative functions. The office of the comptroller of the treasury shall provide the task force with suitable office space and with all office equipment and supplies necessary to perform the duties of the task force.

The purpose of the task force is to review the following issues:

- (1) Areas of savings and investments necessary to provide stability to the existing operations of state government;
- (2) Efficacy of the spending of public funds in achieving outcomes;
- (3) Reduction of long-term spending by the state; and

(4) Optimization of the use of public funds to achieve and maintain cost-effectiveness of state government.

(b) The primary goals of the task force are to ensure saving state taxpayer dollars and recommending investments necessary to maximize performance in state government.

**9-4-5702.**

The task force shall be composed of five (5) members, who shall be citizens of this state and shall be well informed on the subject of state finance. One (1) of these citizens shall be appointed by the governor, one (1) shall be appointed by the speaker of the senate, one (1) shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, one (1) shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate, and one (1) shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives. Each member shall serve for a term of four (4) years and shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

**9-4-5703.**

A vacancy occurring on the task force as a result of resignation, removal, death, expiration of a term, or other cause shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

**9-4-5704.**

(a)

(1) Three (3) members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of meeting and conducting business.

(2) No action of the task force shall be valid unless authorized by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the task force.

(b) The task force shall meet at least two (2) times each year beginning on or after July 1, 2017. All meetings of the task force shall be subject to the open meetings laws compiled in title 8, chapter 44.

(c) A chairperson shall be selected by a majority vote of the members of the task force and shall serve at the pleasure of the task force.

(d) All departments and agencies of the state, including the department of finance and administration, shall, upon request of the task force, provide requested services, information, and technical support.

(e) Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services except the members are eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(f) The task force shall prepare a report on the activities of the task force, along with its findings and recommendations for legislation, and transmit a copy of the report to the governor, speaker of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives, minority leader of the senate, and minority leader of the house of representatives on or before January 15, 2018, and on or before January 1 of each subsequent year.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.