

SENATE BILL 1068

By Niceley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 68, relative to health and safety.

WHEREAS, from 2006 to 2014, there were 3,315,502,327 prescription pain pills supplied to Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, approximately 70,000 Tennesseans are addicted to opioids; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranks third in the nation for prescription drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, opioid abuse and addiction have placed a tremendous strain on local resources throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, additional information and research is needed to determine best practices for addressing opioid abuse and addiction and the resources needed to implement such practices at the local level; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) There is created a state opioid task force, referred to in this section as the "task force," to determine best practices for addressing opioid abuse and addiction and the resources needed to implement such practices at the local level.

(b) The task force consists of thirteen (13) members: six (6) members appointed by the commissioner of health, and six (6) members appointed by the commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services. The twelve (12) members appointed by the commissioners shall jointly appoint one (1) member to the task force.

(c) At least three (3) members of the task force must be appointed from, and reside in, each grand division of the state.

(d) At least two (2) members from each grand division must have at least ten (10) years of experience in one (1) or more of the following areas of expertise:

- (1) Public health policy;
- (2) Medicine;
- (3) Substance use disorder and addiction treatment; or
- (4) Mental health services.

(e) Members of the task force serve without compensation. Reimbursement for travel expenses is in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(f) The task force is attached to the department of health for administrative purposes.

(g) The task force shall report all findings and recommendations to the general assembly and governor by June 30, 2022, at which time this section is repealed and the task force ceases to exist.

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