

HOUSE BILL 355

By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 53
and Title 68, relative to the reduction of food
waste.

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

SECTION 1.

(a) There is created an advisory task force to study the development of initiatives to reduce the waste of food in this state.

(b) The task force consists of seven (7) members as follows:

(1) The commissioner of health, or the commissioner's designee, who shall serve as the chair of the task force;

(2) One (1) person representing the department of agriculture, to be appointed by the commissioner of agriculture;

(3) One (1) person representing the department of environment and conservation, to be appointed by the commissioner of environment and conservation;

(4) One (1) person representing the department of education, to be appointed by the commissioner of education;

(5) One (1) person representing the food security organizations in this state, to be appointed by the commissioner of health;

(6) One (1) person representing urban counties in this state, to be appointed by the commissioner of health; and

(7) One (1) person representing rural counties in this state, to be appointed by the commissioner of health.

(c) The task force shall:

(1) Examine food systems in this state to determine where in the supply chain waste occurs;

(2) Examine the use of incentives, including tax credits and grants, to raise awareness in Tennessee schools and communities of food waste and reduce its occurrence;

(3) Examine the need for appropriate changes to food establishment regulations and food donation statutes, including modification of liability protections; and

(4) Examine waste management and recycling practices with respect to food.

(d)

(1) Members of the task force serve without compensation or reimbursement for any expenses incurred while participating in the business of the task force.

(2) Vacancies among the members of the task force must be filled in the same manner as in the original selection of members.

(e) The selection of members of the task force should be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of this state.

(f) The commissioner of health shall call the first meeting of the task force.

(g) The task force must adopt its findings and recommendations by a majority vote of its total membership.

(h) The chair of the task force may call on appropriate state agencies for reasonable assistance in the work of the task force. The task force is administratively attached to the department of health.

(i) The task force shall hold public meetings and utilize technological means, such as webcasts, to gather feedback on its recommendations from the general public.

(j)

(1) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the general assembly no later than March 1, 2020.

(2) This act is repealed on June 30, 2020.

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