

SENATE BILL 1114

By Yarbro

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 68, relative to the state government advisory task force on community resilience.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) There is created the state government advisory task force on extreme weather and community resilience.

(b) The task force shall consist of twenty-four (24) members as follows:

(1) One (1) member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(2) One (1) member of the senate appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(3) One (1) representative from the department of agriculture appointed by the commissioner of agriculture;

(4) One (1) representative from the department of health appointed by the commissioner of health;

(5) One (1) representative from the department of environment and conservation appointed by the commissioner of environment and conservation;

(6) One (1) representative from the department of commerce and insurance appointed by the commissioner of commerce and insurance;

(7) One (1) representative from the department of finance and administration appointed by the commissioner of finance administration;

(8) One (1) representative from the department of human services appointed by the commissioner of human services;

(9) One (1) representative from the department of safety appointed by the commissioner of safety;

(10) One (1) representative from the department of tourist development appointed by the commissioner of tourist development;

(11) One (1) representative from the department of transportation appointed by the commissioner of transportation;

(12) One (1) representative from the department of economic and community development appointed by the commissioner of economic and community development;

(13) One (1) representative from the department of education appointed by the commissioner of education;

(14) The executive director of the Tennessee housing development agency;

(15) The director of the Tennessee emergency management agency;

(16) One (1) researcher involved in the scientific program of an institute of higher learning in this state who specializes in the area of meteorology or climatology, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(17) One (1) researcher involved in the program of an institute of higher learning in this state who specializes in the area of extreme weather vulnerability assessment, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(18) One (1) county mayor appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(19) One (1) city mayor appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(20) One (1) Tennessee business representative appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(21) One (1) public member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(22) One (1) representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

(23) One (1) representative from the Tennessee Valley Authority; and

(24) One (1) director of a development district selected by the commissioner of environment and conservation.

(c)

(1) The task force shall:

(A) Assess the historical, present, and projected occurrence of natural catastrophes and extreme weather events in this state, which include, but are not limited to, floods, wildfires, extreme temperatures, heat waves, severe storms, blizzards, and drought;

(B) Examine present and projected losses associated with the occurrence of extreme weather events and other natural catastrophes in this state, and land management practices that potentiate extreme weather events, resulting in increased flooding, wildfires, and drought conditions;

(C) Develop recommendations to address vulnerabilities and adverse impacts associated with the occurrence of extreme weather events and other natural catastrophes in this state, including, but not limited to, adverse impacts associated with any projections related to the occurrence of extreme weather events in this state, and any barriers to the state's provision of services and resources and economic prosperity due to the occurrence of such events in this state; and

(D) Develop recommendations to increase resilience to extreme weather events and other natural catastrophes in this state.

(2) The task force shall include an examination of the following in its assessment and recommendations:

(A) The economic impact of any projections related to the occurrence of extreme weather events in this state, including, but not limited to, the impact on forestry, agriculture, water and other natural resources, food systems, zoning, wildlife, hunting, infrastructure, economic productivity and security, education, and public health;

(B) Proposals to prepare for and reduce the adverse impacts associated with extreme weather events and other natural catastrophes that result in loss of life, property, or otherwise impact the economy of the state; and to increase resiliency to future occurrence of such events in this state;

(C) Legislative remedies for consideration by the general assembly;

(D) Necessary state policies or responses, including directions for the provision of clear and coordinated services and support to reduce the impact of natural catastrophes and extreme weather events and increase resiliency in this state; and

(E) Potential financial resources available for increasing resiliency throughout the state.

(d) In order to stagger the terms of the newly appointed task force members, initial appointments of the non-legislative members must be made as follows:

(1) The members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (b)(16) - (18) must be appointed for initial terms of one (1) year;

(2) The members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (b)(19) - (21) must be appointed for initial terms of two (2) years;

(3) The members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (b)(22) - (24) must be appointed for initial terms of three (3) years.

(e) Following the expiration of members' initial terms as prescribed in subsection (c), all non-legislative appointments to the task force must be for terms of three (3) years and begin on July 1 and terminate on June 30, three (3) years thereafter.

(f)

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

(2) All legislative members of the task force shall remain members of the task force so long as they remain members of the general assembly.

(3) All non-legislative members of the task force serve until the expiration of the term to which they were appointed and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

(4) Vacancies among the twenty-two (22) non-legislative members of the task force must be filled in the same manner as in the original selection of members. Vacancies among the two (2) legislative members of the task force must be filled in the same manner as in the original selection of members; provided, however, if a vacancy among the two (2) legislative members of the task force occurs while the general assembly is not in session, the speaker of the respective body shall fill the vacancy.

(5) Non-legislative members are eligible for reappointment to the task force following the expiration of their terms, but may serve no more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms.

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

(h) The task force shall be co-chaired by the department of environment and conservation and the Tennessee emergency management agency. The task force shall meet quarterly and the co-chairs shall call the first meeting of the task force.

(i) The task force must agree upon its findings and recommendations by a majority vote of its total membership. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

(j) The task force is administratively attached to the department of environment and conservation, which shall provide necessary project management and administrative support at the request of the task force. The co-chairs of the task force may call on appropriate state agencies for reasonable assistance in the work of the task force.

(k) The task force shall hold public meetings and utilize technological means, such as webcasts, to gather feedback on the recommendations from the general public and from persons and families affected by extreme weather in this state.

(l) The task force shall report annually to the general assembly by February 1.

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