



March 2, 2020

**CORRECTED SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Creates a 12-member advisory task force of farmers and foresters to lead a strategic planning process and resulting implementation plan to position this state as a leading hub for agtech and value-added agriculture. The task force will be attached to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for administrative purposes.

Authorizes the task force to create a scope of work and issue a request for proposals (RFP) for a third-party consulting firm to develop a statewide strategy for agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship led by the farming community. Authorizes the task force to call on appropriate state agencies for reasonable assistance. Limits the number of meetings of the task force to three scheduled meetings. Requires the task force to hold public meetings and utilize technological means such as webcasts, to gather feedback on its recommendations. Requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than April 1, 2021. Members of the task force serve without compensation.

**CORRECTED FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$54,000/FY20-21

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (015485):** Deletes and replaces all language of the bill such that substantive changes include: reduces the membership of the task force from 12 members to 9 members; requires the task force to conduct at least 3 meetings, rather than up to three meetings; requires the task force to submit its report by August 31, 2021, rather than April 1, 2021.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Unchanged from the corrected fiscal note.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- It is assumed that there will be four quarterly meetings of the task force.
- Meetings will be held at public venues that are estimated to be donated to the purpose of the task force.

- No legislative members will serve on the task force.
- Members of the task force will not receive compensation; however, it is assumed that all members will be reimbursed for travel expenses. Such reimbursement will equal \$0.47 per mile roundtrip; the average miles traveled per member is estimated to be 234 miles roundtrip.
- An increase in state expenditures in FY20-21 of \$3,959 [(9 members x \$0.47 per mile x 234 miles) x 4 meetings].
- The task force will issue an RFP for a third-party consulting group to aid in developing a statewide strategy.
- Any cost to enter into a contract consequent to such RFP is unknown, but is reasonably estimated to exceed \$50,000.
- The total increase in state expenditures in FY20-21 is estimated to exceed \$53,959 (\$3,959 + \$50,000).
- Any increase in state expenditures for DOA associated with administration of the task force is estimated to be not significant.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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