



improvements that might increase DHS mental health program costs. The Task Force may adopt rules necessary for its operation.

The measure does not make provision for Task Force members to be compensated, reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses associated with their duties on the Task Force, nor receive travel expenses or per diem. Under existing law, Legislative members of the Task Force member are eligible for compensation or reimbursement of expenses, but as part of the Legislature's normal operating budget. By contract, DHS employees could be eligible for per diem.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is directed to provide staff support for the Task Force and all state agencies are directed to assist the Task Force in the performance of its duties.

DHS has estimated the fiscal impact of this measure at \$65,084 General Fund for the remainder of the 2007-09 biennium and \$61,202 General Fund for 24-months of the 2009-11 biennium. The Department would require the equivalent of a Limited Duration full-time Administrative Specialist 1 position (0.67 FTE for 2007-09 and 0.63 FTE for 2009-11). The Department states it would need \$2,970 General Fund for meeting expenses for the 2007-09 biennium and an identical amount of General Fund for the 2009-11 biennium. There would not be a fiscal impact for DHS Task Force members as they are existing budgeted resources of the Department.

DHS has stated that it can absorb \$62,114 General Fund for the 2007-09 biennium and \$58,232 General Fund for the 2009-11 biennium of the costs within its current budget. LFO would point out that these resources could apparently be used for other budgetary purposes (including modest amounts of General Fund savings) if this measure is not adopted.

This measure currently has a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. This referral is appropriate at this time.