

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	6 - 2 - 0
Yeas:	Edwards C., Gelser, Jenson, Nolan, Read, Roblan
Nays:	Berger, Garrard
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jerry Watson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/20, 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates task force on Effective and Cost-Efficient Service Provision to study and make recommendations on the provision of state and local government services. Establishes size, criteria for membership, process for appointing members, and operating procedures of task force. Directs task force to review opportunities to provide services in most effective and cost-efficient manner and to consider use of intergovernmental agreements to achieve cost savings. Requires task force to analyze services in areas of assessment and taxation, elections, human service, public health, and criminal justice. Mandates task force to encourage effective fiscal planning for counties managing phaseout of federal forest safety net payments. Provides for gubernatorial appointment of Chairperson from membership of task force. Requires task force to submit an interim report in 2009 and a final report, possibly including recommendations for legislation, to interim legislative committee dealing with revenue by October 1, 2010. Requires task force to establish a technical committee to aid and advise task force in its functions. Prohibits compensation, but allows travel and expense reimbursement to members of the technical committee.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Complexity and inefficiency of existing revenue and governmental structures for providing public services
- Division of responsibilities between state and counties in providing public services
- Need to restructure government to address service delivery
- Recommendations of Governor's Task Force on Federal Forest Payments and County Services
- Fiscal impact and subsequent referral to Ways and Means

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Specifies size and numerical distribution of task force membership. Adds state agencies and county commissioners to required membership categories. Mandates task force to encourage effective fiscal planning for counties managing phaseout of federal forest safety net payments. Provides for gubernatorial appointment of Chairperson from membership of task force. Modifies reporting requirement by adding obligation to submit interim report in 2009. Requires task force to establish a technical committee to aid and advise task force in its functions. Prohibits compensation, but allows travel and expense reimbursement to members of the technical committee.

BACKGROUND: Proponents assert that it is particularly appropriate to examine how state and local government can operate more efficiently and effectively during a period of economic downturn, limited revenues and high demand for government services.