

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

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Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates 15-member Task Force on Criminal Records Checks for Professions that Involve Essential Services to study use of criminal records checks to evaluate perspective employees for certain professions. Declares emergency, effective on passage. Sunsets on December 31, 2016.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Proposed -1 amendment adds two additional members (for a total of 17) from an organization representing: 1) individuals with intellectual disabilities; 2) individuals with developmental disabilities; or 3) seniors.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 602 creates a Task Force on Criminal Records Checks for Professions that Involve Essential Services (Task Force). The Task Force comprises representatives from the Legislature, relevant agencies and non-governmental organizations to be appointed by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor. The Task Force also includes the Long Term Care Ombudsman or their designee.

Senate Bill 602 requires the Task Force to study: 1) the use of criminal records checks to evaluate prospective employees for certain professions that provide care and services to vulnerable individuals; 2) a cost-benefit analysis of requiring criminal records checks; and 3) the types of crimes at issue. Additionally, the bill outlines details of the Task Force's assignment as well as rules of operation.

Senate Bill 602 declares an emergency and is effective immediately. It contains a sunset provision taking effect on December 31, 2016.