

SENATE BILL NO. 944

May 28, 2020, Introduced by Senators BRINKS, ANANICH, WOJNO, CHANG, BAYER, GEISS, BULLOCK, MCCANN, IRWIN, MCMORROW, MOSS, ALEXANDER, SANTANA, HERTEL and HOLLIER and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to create a task force on racial disparities in the department of health and human services and to prescribe its powers and duties; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state and local officers and entities; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 1. As used in this act:
- 2 (a) "Coronavirus" means coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- 3 (b) "Department" means the department of health and human

1 services.

2 (c) "Director" means the director of the department or his or
3 her designee.

4 (d) "Task force" means the coronavirus task force on racial
5 disparities described in section 3.

6 Sec. 3. (1) The coronavirus task force on racial disparities
7 created under Executive Order No. 2020-55 within the department
8 consists of the following members, appointed by the governor:

9 (a) The lieutenant governor.

10 (b) The director.

11 (c) The chief medical executive in the office of chief medical
12 executive created within the department.

13 (d) Twenty-four individuals reflecting a diverse geographic,
14 economic, racial, cultural, gender, and occupational composition of
15 this state.

16 (2) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the governor shall
17 make an appointment for the unexpired term in the same manner as
18 the original appointment.

19 (3) The governor may remove a member of the task force for
20 incompetence, dereliction of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or
21 nonfeasance in office, or any other good cause.

22 (4) The lieutenant governor shall serve as the chairperson of
23 the task force. The task force shall elect from among its members
24 other officers as it considers necessary or appropriate. The task
25 force shall meet at the call of the chairperson, or more frequently
26 if requested by a majority or more of the members.

27 (5) A majority of the members of the task force constitute a
28 quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the task
29 force. A majority of the members present and serving are required

1 for official action of the task force.

2 (6) The business that the task force may perform shall be
3 conducted at a public meeting of the task force held in compliance
4 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

5 (7) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or
6 retained by the task force in the performance of an official
7 function is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442,
8 MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

9 (8) Members of the task force shall serve without
10 compensation. However, members of the task force may be reimbursed
11 for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance
12 of their official duties as members of the task force.

13 Sec. 5. (1) The task force shall serve as an advisory body to
14 the governor and shall do all of the following:

15 (a) Study the causes of racial disparities related to
16 coronavirus and recommend actions to address the disparities.

17 (b) Recommend actions on each of the following:

18 (i) Increasing transparency in reporting data regarding the
19 racial and ethnic impact of coronavirus.

20 (ii) Removing barriers to accessing physical and mental health
21 care.

22 (iii) Reducing the impact of medical bias in testing and
23 treatment.

24 (iv) Mitigating environmental and infrastructure factors
25 contributing to increased exposure during pandemics resulting in
26 mortality.

27 (v) Developing and improving systems for supporting long-term
28 economic recovery and physical and mental health care following a
29 pandemic.

1 (c) Perform outreach efforts to ensure that all of the
2 following who are located in areas of this state that are impacted
3 by coronavirus are informed, educated, and empowered:

4 (i) Community leaders.

5 (ii) Partner organizations.

6 (iii) Tribal governments.

7 (iv) Local government officials.

8 (v) Elected officials.

9 (vi) Any other person that the task force considers
10 appropriate.

11 (d) Perform outreach efforts to ensure that the public is
12 informed about the impact of racial disparities related to
13 coronavirus and the work of the task force.

14 (e) Identify funding to combat racial disparities related to
15 coronavirus.

16 (f) Recommend changes to the laws of this state to combat
17 racial disparities related to pandemics and responding to
18 pandemics.

19 (g) Identify other issues and provide recommendations to the
20 governor on any other matters relevant to addressing racial
21 disparities related to pandemics and responding to pandemics.

22 (h) Provide other information or advice or take other actions
23 as requested by the governor.

24 (2) The task force may do 1 or more of the following:

25 (a) Establish advisory workgroups composed of persons
26 participating in task force activities or members of the public, as
27 considered necessary by the task force to assist it in performing
28 its duties and responsibilities. The task force may adopt, reject,
29 or modify a recommendation proposed by an advisory workgroup

1 established under this subsection.

2 (b) Make inquiries, studies, and investigations, hold hearings,
3 and receive comments from the public.

4 (c) Consult with experts in performing its duties, including
5 experts in the private sector or representing organized labor, the
6 faith community, government agencies, and institutions of higher
7 education.

8 (d) Subject to available funding and applicable law, hire or
9 retain contractors, subcontractors, advisors, consultants, and
10 agents, and make and enter into contracts necessary or incidental
11 to the exercise of the powers and duties of the task force as the
12 chairperson considers advisable and necessary.

13 (e) Subject to applicable law, accept donations of labor,
14 services, or other things of value.

15 (3) The task force shall report regularly to the governor on
16 its activities and make any recommendations to the governor on an
17 ongoing basis.

18 (4) Members of the task force described in section 3(1)(b) to
19 (d) shall refer all legal, legislative, and media contacts to the
20 department.

21 Sec. 7. Except as otherwise provided by law, each department
22 of this state, agency, committee, commissioner, and officer of this
23 state must provide the task force with any assistance requested by
24 the task force in the performance of its duties under this act and
25 provide access to any books, records, or documents in their custody
26 relating to matters within the scope of inquiry, study, or review
27 of the task force.

28 Sec. 9. This act is repealed effective August 26, 2020.