

HB 2650 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Action Date: 04/04/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-3-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Dexter, Evans, Grayber, Tran

Nays: 3 - Conrad, Hieb, Lewis

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/2, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies that task forces or work groups established by statute or members of the Legislative Assembly must be comprised of 50 percent of members who belong to impacted groups and representatives of community-based organizations, and that at least 25 percent of those members be impacted persons who are representatives of historically underrepresented communities or community-based organizations serving those communities.

Defines terms. Provides that task force and work group members not otherwise compensated for participation must be compensated for time and travel in amount equal to per diem allowance for members of the Legislative Assembly. Specifies that members may decline compensation, and that compensation must be made in a manner that does not compromise eligibility for public benefits. Stipulates that task force and work group meetings should be scheduled, as much as possible, at times that center participating impacted persons, and must as much as possible, allow participation via electronic means.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Barriers to participation in work groups and task forces
- Whether measure applies to volunteers serving on elected boards
- Participation in work groups and task forces by those affected by outcomes
- Who would be responsible for determining if requirements are satisfied
- Compensation as incentive to increase participation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Work groups are often an integral part of the legislative committee process. They are typically formed to bring together a group of people to discuss and reach resolution on an issue. Meetings are typically held informally, are not publicly noticed or subject to public meeting laws, and do not hold formal proceedings such as public hearings or work sessions. A work group is usually formed by a legislator, often a chair of a committee, who sets expectations for the group, outlines membership of the work group, and gives some direction for process and outcome. A work group may be chaired or facilitated by a legislator, legislative or committee staff, or a third party. The Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) staffed approximately 30 work groups during the 2021-2022 interim.

Task forces are generally more formalized than work groups, but serve a similar function. They are often created by legislation; LPRO staffed six task forces during the 2021-2022 interim, each having been created by legislation.

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The legislation often lays out the membership of the task force, or specifies the appointing authorities and categories of membership, and also outlines the expectations of the task force. Task force meetings are required to abide by public meeting law, and are noticed and recorded.

House Bill 2650 A establishes statutory requirements for membership and compensation of task forces and informal work groups. It specifies that task forces or work groups established by statute or members of the Legislative Assembly must be comprised of 50 percent of members who belong to impacted groups and representatives of community-based organizations, and that at least 25 percent of those members must be impacted persons who are representatives of historically underrepresented communities or community-based organizations serving those communities.