

Committee on Health Regulation

CS/CS/HB 227 — Prescription Drug Abuse

by Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Health and Human Services Quality Subcommittee; and Rep. Stargel and others (CS/CS/SB 402 by Budget Committee; Health Regulation Committee; and Senators Negron and Fasano)

The bill creates a 15-member Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and Newborns within the Department of Legal Affairs. The purpose of the task force is to examine and analyze the emerging problem of neonatal withdrawal syndrome as it pertains to prescription drugs. The task force will research the impact of prescription drug use and neonatal withdrawal syndrome, evaluate effective strategies for treatment and prevention, and provide policy recommendations to the Legislature.

The task force is required to hold its organizational session by May 1, 2012, and must meet at least four times per year thereafter. Staff support for the task force will be provided by the Department of Legal Affairs. The task force must submit an interim report of its recommendations to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15, 2013, and a final report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15, 2015.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 117-0