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No.22 An Order Establishing the Governor's Task Force on the Healthcare Safety Net

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STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 22

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE
ON THE HEALTHCARE SAFETY NET**

WHEREAS, county health departments, community and faith-based clinics, safety net hospitals and other commercial and non-commercial healthcare outlets are vital to Tennessee's healthcare safety net; and

WHEREAS, development of Tennessee's healthcare safety net has been limited since the inception of the TennCare program in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the safety net will become increasingly important to the delivery of care following enrollment reductions in the TennCare program; and

WHEREAS, the state of Tennessee needs to re-examine the healthcare safety net, consider key improvements particularly in the public portions of the safety net and reinvest as financially feasible.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and law, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. The Governor's Task Force on the Healthcare Safety Net is hereby established. The Task Force is charged with the responsibility of examining the state of the healthcare safety net in Tennessee and recommending to the Governor short-term and long-term options for strengthening it.

In making its recommendations, the Task Force shall consider the status and scope of the healthcare safety nets in neighboring states or those with similar economies, demographics and public health challenges. The Task Force shall also consider the budgetary requirements of the state of Tennessee, and any other factors that the Task Force deems to be relevant.

2. The Task Force shall present its findings and recommendations to the Governor on or before May 1, 2005.

3. The Governor shall appoint all Task Force members. The Task Force shall have twenty-five (24) members, consisting of the following individuals:

- a. The Governor or his designee;
- b. The Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance;
- c. The Commissioner of Health;
- d. The Commissioner of Human Services;
- e. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities;

- f. The Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Finance and Administration's Division of Mental Retardation Services;
 - g. One (1) member of the Tennessee Senate;
 - h. One (1) member of the Tennessee House of Representatives;
 - i. Two (2) representatives of county health departments;
 - j. Two (2) representatives of safety net hospitals;
 - k. Two (2) county mayors;
 - l. Ten (10) healthcare professionals. In making these appointments, the Governor shall strive to select individuals possessing relevant experience in the delivery of health care in traditionally underserved rural and urban areas.
4. The Governor or his designee shall serve as Chairperson of the Task Force.
5. The Task Force shall convene for its initial meeting on or before February 1, 2005, at a place and time to be determined by the Chairperson of the Task Force. Thereafter, the Task Force shall meet at such times and places as determined by its Chairperson; provided, however, that the Task Force shall meet no less frequently than two times per month.
6. The Task Force shall be attached to the Department of Health for administrative purposes.
7. All Executive Branch departments, agencies, boards and commissions, and any other divisions of state government shall fully cooperate with the Task Force in carrying out the mandates of this Executive Order and shall provide staff support and any other assistance as requested.
8. Non-legislative members shall receive no compensation for their service on the Task Force but may be reimbursed for those expenses allowed by the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General and Reporter. Members of the General Assembly shall be reimbursed in the same manner as they are paid for attending legislative meetings pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.
8. The Task Force will cease to function following the presentation of its recommendations to the Governor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 24th day of January, 2005.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE