AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 327

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE SAYLOR

Amend Bill, page 1, line 20, by inserting after "determined," "providing for COVID-19 Cost and Recovery Task Force;"

Amend Bill, page 1, line 24, by inserting after "leased" ; and making an appropriation

Amend Bill, page 1, line 28; page 2, line 1; by striking out "a" in line 28 on page 1 and "section" in line 1 on page 2 and inserting an article

Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 1 and 2

ARTICLE XXI-C
COVID-19 COST AND RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Section 2101-C. Legislative findings.
The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

(1) A novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, entered the United States in late January 2020 and has spread throughout the states, including this Commonwealth.

(2) On March 6, 2020, the Governor declared a disaster emergency, citing a threat of imminent disaster that is of such a magnitude and severity as to necessitate extraordinary measures to protect the health, safety and life of this Commonwealth's citizens.

(3) The impact of COVID-19, including all the necessary measures taken to mitigate the spread of the disease, has severely disrupted the Commonwealth and its subdivisions and is producing short-term and long-term negative economic consequences.

(4) In order to effectively manage the current disaster, all branches of the Commonwealth's government must work cooperatively to identify immediate and urgent issues, provide a structure to catalog the Commonwealth's response to the disaster emergency and create a forum to receive testimony, information and recommendations from individuals,
business and industry.

(5) In addition to managing the existing public health challenges of COVID-19, the Commonwealth will need a recovery plan once the emergency subsides to address the innumerable issues resulting from the disaster emergency, including the impact to the economy.

(6) The most effective manner to achieve these critical needs is to form an interbranch task force.

Section 2102-C. Definitions.
The following words and phrases when used in this article shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Order." As follows:

(1) The declaration of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020).

(2) A declaration of disaster emergency relating to the novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, issued after March 6, 2020.


Section 2103-C. Task force.

(a) Establishment.--The COVID-19 Cost and Recovery Task Force is established.

(b) Membership.--The task force shall consist of the following members, appointed within five days of the effective date of this section:

(1) The Governor or a designee.

(2) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate.

(3) Three members of the Senate appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

(4) Three members of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(5) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(6) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(7) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(8) The following individuals appointed by the Governor:

(i) An officer or employee of the Department of Health to represent the Secretary of Health.

(ii) An officer or employee of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to represent the Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

(iii) An officer or employee of the Department of Community and Economic Development to represent the Secretary of Community and Economic Development.
(9) The following individuals appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court:


(ii) A judge of the Superior or Commonwealth Courts or a justice of the Supreme Court.

(iii) A judge of a court of common pleas or a member of the minor judiciary.

(c) Method of appointment.--An appointing authority under subsection (b) shall make appointment or replacement appointment by the transmission of a letter to the Governor, all ex officio members and all appointing authorities under subsection (b).

(d) Advisory committees.--The following shall apply:

(1) The task force may establish advisory committees to review issues relating to the COVID-19 public health emergency that require executive, legislative or judicial action and to report related information to the task force.

(2) Members of an advisory committee shall be individuals appointed by the task force who have experience in the issue being reviewed. Members of the task force and individuals who are not members of the task force may be appointed to an advisory committee.

(3) A member of the task force shall serve as the chairperson of each advisory committee.

(4) An advisory committee established under this subsection may be directed to review issues related to issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact those issues have had on the Commonwealth.

(e) Chairperson.--The Governor or a designee under subsection (b)(1) shall serve as chairperson of the task force.

(f) Participation.--A member not physically present may participate by teleconference or video conference.

(g) Quorum and voting.--The following shall apply:

(1) A majority of the members of the task force participating in person, teleconference or video conference shall constitute a quorum.

(2) Action of the task force must be authorized or ratified by majority vote of the members of the task force.

(h) Meetings.--The following shall apply:

(1) The task force shall meet at least once a week. Additional meetings may be called by the chairperson as necessary. The chairperson shall schedule a meeting upon written request of four members of the task force.

(2) The first meeting shall be convened within 10 days of the effective date of this paragraph.

(3) The task force may take actions necessary to conform to public gathering requirements ordered or recommended by the Secretary of Health or the Centers for Disease Control.

(4) The task force shall permit the public to view or listen to a committee meeting through contemporaneous methods and make the recordings available on the Department of
Community and Economic Development's publicly accessible
Internet website.

(5) The task force may hold public hearings if
necessary.

(i) Expenses.--Members shall not receive compensation but
shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in service of
the task force.

(j) Support.--The Office of the Governor, the Senate, the
House of Representatives and the Administrative Offices of the
Pennsylvania Courts shall provide administrative services to the
task force.

(k) Applicability.--The following shall apply:

(1) (i) Except as provided under subparagraph (ii), the
act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the
Right-to-Know Law, shall apply to the task force.

(ii) Correspondence between a person and a member of
the task force and records accompanying the
.correspondence submitted under section 2104-C(a)(3) shall
be exempt from access by a requester under the Right-to-
Know Law. This subparagraph shall not apply to
correspondence between a member and a principal or
lobbyist under 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 13A (relating to lobbying).

(2) Except as provided under paragraph (3), the task
force shall be deemed an agency for the purposes of 65
Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings).

(3) Public notice of a meeting of the task force shall
be made by the issuance of a press release by the chairperson
no less than 24 hours prior to a meeting.

(4) A member of the task force shall be deemed a public
official for the purpose of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 11 (relating to
ethics standards and financial disclosure). A statement
required to be filed by a member under 65 Pa.C.S. § 1104(a)
(relating to statement of financial interests required to be
filed) due to the individual's membership on the task force
shall be filed only with the State Ethics Commission.

(5) The task force shall be considered an independent
agency for the purposes of the act of October 15, 1980
(P.L.950, No.164), known as the Commonwealth Attorneys Act.

Section 2104-C. Functions of task force.

(a) Powers.--The task force shall have the following powers:
(1) To request periodic updates from each agency under
the Governor's jurisdiction, independent agencies, the
legislature, and the unified judicial system on any actions
taken in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(2) To appoint advisory committees under section 2103-
C(d).

(3) To receive communications from individuals,
businesses, nonprofit entities, local governments and any
other entity regarding issues under subsection (b)(2).

(b) Duties.--The task force shall have the following duties:

(1) To monitor and track the response by the
Commonwealth to the COVID-19 public health emergency during the time that the order remains active, including all actions taken under the authority of the order.

(2) To identify immediate and urgent issues relating to the COVID-19 public health emergency that require executive, legislative or judicial action and to make recommendations to the proper body in a timely fashion.

(3) To develop and submit a recovery plan to the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch and Judicial Branch of the Commonwealth's government. A recovery plan shall include a documented, structured approach that describes how the Commonwealth and its subdivisions can expeditiously resume mission-critical functions, including the restoration of housing, transportation, education and other public services and economic activity to levels equal to or better than their predisaster states through a series of short-term, intermediate and long-term strategies and actions. The recovery plan may be based in part or in whole on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's resources for recovery planning and managing recovery.

(4) To make a final report no later than six months after the order is terminated by executive order, proclamation or operation of law documenting all of the following:

   (i) Actions taken by executive agencies under the order.
   (ii) Legislative enactments made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
   (iii) Judicial orders made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
   (iv) A summary of actions undertaken by local governments in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Section 2105-C. Appropriation.
The amount of $1,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Community and Economic Development for payment of reasonable expenses under section 2103-C(i). The appropriation under this section shall not lapse until the expiration of this article under section 2106-C. Any amount of the appropriation unexpended or uncommitted upon the expiration under section 2106-C shall lapse.

Section 2106-C. Expiration.
This article shall expire six months after the order is terminated by executive order, proclamation or operation of law.

Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Amend Bill, page 3, line 10, by striking out all of said line and inserting

Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

(1) The following provisions shall take effect
immediately:

(i) The addition of Article XXI-C of the act.

(ii) This section.

(2) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 180 days.