



## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

SB1640

Introduced 2/13/2013, by Sen. John J. Cullerton

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2310/2310-665 new

Amends the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois to create the Illinois Multiple Sclerosis Task Force. Sets forth the findings and declarations of the General Assembly. Provides that the purpose of the Task Force shall be to (1) develop strategies to identify and address the unmet needs of persons with multiple sclerosis (MS) in order to enhance the quality of life of persons with MS by maximizing productivity and independence and addressing emotional, social, and vocational challenges of persons with MS and (2) develop strategies to provide persons with MS greater access to various treatments and other therapeutic options that may be available. Sets forth provisions concerning membership, meetings, and Task Force assistance and staff support. Provides that the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly, along with any legislative bills that it desires to recommend for adoption by the General Assembly, no later than January 1, 2015. Repeals the Section on January 1, 2016.

LRB098 10386 RPM 40574 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Public Health Powers and  
5 Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is  
6 amended by adding Section 2310-665 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 2310/2310-665 new)

8 Sec. 2310-665. Multiple Sclerosis Task Force.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds and declares the following:

10 (1) Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, often  
11 disabling, disease that attacks the central nervous  
12 system, which is comprised of the brain, spinal cord, and  
13 optic nerves. It is a disease in which the body, through  
14 its immune system, launches a defensive and damaging attack  
15 against its own tissues. MS damages the nerve-insulating  
16 myelin sheath that surrounds and protects the brain. The  
17 damage to the myelin sheath slows down or blocks messages  
18 between the brain and the body.

19 (2) Most people experience their first symptoms of MS  
20 between the ages of 20 and 40. MS symptoms can include  
21 visual disturbances, muscle weakness, trouble with  
22 coordination and balance, sensations such as numbness,  
23 prickling or pins and needles, and thought and memory

1 problems. MS patients can also experience partial or  
2 complete paralysis, speech impediments, tremors,  
3 dizziness, stiffness and spasms, fatigue, paresthasias,  
4 pain, and loss of sensation.

5 (3) The cause of MS remains unknown; however, having a  
6 first-degree relative, such as a parent or sibling, with MS  
7 significantly increases a person's risk of developing the  
8 disease. According to the National Institute of  
9 Neurological Disorders and Stroke, it is estimated that  
10 there are approximately 250,000 to 350,000 persons in the  
11 United States who are diagnosed with MS. This estimate  
12 suggests that approximately 200 new cases are diagnosed  
13 each week.

14 (4) Presently, there is no cure for MS. While some  
15 scientists look for therapies that will affect the overall  
16 course of the disease, others search for new and better  
17 medications to control the symptoms of MS without  
18 triggering intolerable side effects.

19 (5) Therefore, it is in the public interest for the  
20 State to establish a Multiple Sclerosis Task Force in order  
21 to identify and address the unmet needs of persons with MS  
22 and develop ways to enhance their quality of life.

23 (b) There is established the Illinois Multiple Sclerosis  
24 Task Force in the Department of Public Health. The purpose of  
25 the Task Force shall be to:

26 (1) develop strategies to identify and address the

1 unmet needs of persons with MS in order to enhance the  
2 quality of life of persons with MS by maximizing  
3 productivity and independence and addressing emotional,  
4 social, and vocational challenges of persons with MS; and

5 (2) develop strategies to provide persons with MS  
6 greater access to various treatments and other therapeutic  
7 options that may be available.

8 (c) The Task Force shall consist of 11 members as follows:

9 (1) the Director of Public Health and the Secretary of  
10 Human Services, or their designees, who shall serve ex  
11 officio; and

12 (2) nine public members, who shall be appointed by the  
13 Director of Public Health as follows: 2 neurologists  
14 licensed to practice medicine in this State; one person  
15 upon the recommendation of the National Multiple Sclerosis  
16 Society, Greater Illinois Chapter; 2 persons who represent  
17 agencies that provide services or support to individuals  
18 with MS in this State; 2 persons who have MS; and 2 members  
19 of the public with a demonstrated expertise in issues  
20 relating to the work of the Task Force.

21 Vacancies in the membership of the Task Force shall be  
22 filled in the same manner provided for in the original  
23 appointments.

24 (d) The Task Force shall organize within 120 days following  
25 the appointment of a majority of its members and shall select a  
26 chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members. The

1 chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member  
2 of the Task Force.

3 (e) The public members shall serve without compensation,  
4 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
5 performance of their duties and within the limits of funds  
6 available to the Task Force.

7 (f) The Task Force may meet and hold hearings as it deems  
8 appropriate.

9 (g) The Department of Public Health shall provide staff  
10 support to the Task Force.

11 (h) The Task Force shall report its findings and  
12 recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly,  
13 along with any legislative bills that it desires to recommend  
14 for adoption by the General Assembly, no later than January 1,  
15 2015.

16 (j) This Section is repealed on January 1, 2016.