



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB5449

by Rep. Anne Stava-Murray

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

55 ILCS 5/3-4013 new

Amends the Public Defender and Appointed Counsel Division of the Counties Code. Creates the Public Defender Quality Defense Task Force. Provides that the Task Force is established to: (i) examine the current caseload and determine the optimal caseload for public defenders in the State; (ii) examine the quality of legal services being offered to defendants by public defenders of the State; and (iii) make recommendations to improve the caseload of public defenders and quality of legal services offered by public defenders. Provides that the Task Force shall hold a minimum of 2 public hearings and at other times of its choosing. Provides that the Task Force shall prepare a report that summarizes its work and makes recommendations resulting from its study to the General Assembly and Governor no later than December 31, 2021. Repeals the provisions on December 31, 2022. Effective immediately.

LRB101 19331 AWJ 68800 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning local government.

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

4 Section 5. The Counties Code is amended by adding Section
5 3-4013 as follows:

6 (55 ILCS 5/3-4013 new)

7 Sec. 3-4013. Public Defender Quality Defense Task Force.

8 (a) The Public Defender Quality Defense Task Force is
9 established to: (i) examine the current caseload and determine
10 the optimal caseload for public defenders in the State; (ii)
11 examine the quality of legal services being offered to
12 defendants by public defenders of the State; and (iii) make
13 recommendations to improve the caseload of public defenders and
14 quality of legal services offered by public defenders.

15 (b) The following members shall be appointed to the Task
16 Force by the Governor no later than 30 days after the effective
17 date of this amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly:

18 (1) 2 assistant public defenders from the Office of the
19 Cook County Public Defender.

20 (2) 5 public defenders or assistant public defenders
21 from 5 counties other than Cook County.

22 (3) One Cook County circuit judge experienced in the
23 litigation of criminal law matters.

1 (4) One circuit judge from outside of Cook County
2 experienced in the litigation of criminal law matters.

3 (5) One representative from the Office of the State
4 Appellate Defender.

5 Task Force members shall serve without compensation but may
6 be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in performing their
7 duties. If a vacancy occurs in the Task Force membership, the
8 vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original
9 appointment for the remainder of the Task Force.

10 (c) The Task Force shall hold a minimum of 2 public
11 hearings. At the public hearings, the Task Force shall take
12 testimony of public defenders, former criminal defendants
13 represented by public defenders, and any other person the Task
14 Force believes would aid the Task Force's examination and
15 recommendations under subsection (a). The Task may meet as such
16 other times as it deems appropriate.

17 (d) The Office of the State Appellate Defender shall
18 provide administrative and other support to the Task Force.

19 (e) The Task Force shall prepare a report that summarizes
20 its work and makes recommendations resulting from its study.
21 The Task Force shall submit the report of its findings and
22 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly no
23 later than December 31, 2021.

24 (f) This Section is repealed on December 31, 2022.

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
26 becoming law.