

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

\$2,400. Legislative members are also entitled to travel, lodging, and incidentals reimbursement. These costs are estimated at \$397 per member, per meeting, or \$6,352 in total. The travel related expenses would need to be budgeted under the Department of Energy, as that office is directed to staff the Task Force.

The Task Force also includes the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, a representative of the Office of the Attorney General, and one other ex officio member to be designated by the Governor. No additional costs are assumed for participation by these individuals, as it is assumed that Task Force meetings will be held in Richmond.

The Governor is allowed to appoint one other member to the Task Force. The chair of the Task Force is to appoint an additional seven nonlegislative members. The eight nonlegislative member would be eligible to receive reimbursement for travel costs. Travel costs are estimated at \$160 per nonlegislative member and therefore could be \$5,120 assuming four Task Force meetings.

The bill directs that the Department of Energy will provide staff to coordinate the work of the Task Force, manage stakeholder engagement, oversee deliverables, and ensure actionable outcomes as needed. The Department of Energy indicates that its existing staff can absorb the administrative responsibilities of the Task Force, but the department estimates it will need approximately \$100,000 for contractual support for technical analysis to support the Task Force.

Other: This bill is identical to HB285, as enrolled.

A technical amendment is recommended to clarify the appointment process for the Task Force members. The bill directs that the Task Force consists of 15 members, including a chair chosen by the Task Force members. Later the bill says that the chair shall appoint seven of the Task Force members. It is unclear if a chair could be chosen until such members are appointed, but there is no authority to appoint the remaining seven Task Force members until a chair is chosen.