

**TASK FORCE ON WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS**

1998 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Afton B. Bradshaw**

AN ACT RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE TASK FORCE ON WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP; DELINEATING RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES; PROVIDING A REPORTING DATE; APPROPRIATING \$20,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND; AND PROVIDING A REPEAL DATE.

This act enacts uncodified material.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

**Section 1. Task Force on Whistleblower Protections -- Creation -- Membership -- Quorum -- Staff.**

(1) There is created the Task Force on Whistleblower Protections consisting of the following ~~h [nine]~~ TEN ~~h~~ members:

(a) two members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate, no more than one of whom may be from the same political party;

(b) three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, no more than two of whom may be from the same political party;

(c) the state auditor or the state auditor's designee; and

(d) the following members jointly appointed by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives:

(i) one representative of private employers;

(ii) one representative of public employees; ~~h [and]~~ ~~h~~

(iii) one representative of private employees ~~h [;]~~ ; AND

(iv) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYERS. ~~h~~

(2) (a) The president of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate appointed under Subsection (1)(a) as a cochair of the task force.

1 (b) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the House  
2 of Representatives appointed under Subsection (1)(b) as a cochair of the task force.

3 (3) A majority of the members of the task force constitute a quorum. The action of a  
4 majority of a quorum constitutes the action of the task force.

5 (4) (a) Compensation and expenses of the members of the task force who are legislators  
6 shall be paid in accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rule 15.03.

7 (b) Members of the task force who are not legislators may not receive compensation for  
8 their work associated with the task force.

9 (5) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support  
10 to the task force.

11 **Section 2. Duties -- Interim report.**

12 (1) The task force shall review and make recommendations on the following issues:

13 (a) should the Legislature provide statutory protections for a private employee who  
14 discloses bad acts by the employee's employer or others;

15 (b) if statutory protections for a private employee are established, should the protections  
16 be integrated into Title 67, Chapter ~~h [27] 21 h~~, Utah Protection of Public Employees Act, or  
16a established

17 in a separate act for private employees;

18 (c) should Title 67, Chapter ~~h [27] 21 h~~, be repealed or modified;

19 (d) should the responsibilities of the state auditor under Title 67, Chapter ~~h [27] h h 21 h~~, be  
19a repealed  
20 or modified;

21 (e) what the nature of legislation protecting either private or public employees should  
22 include; and

23 (f) any other issue relevant to whistleblower laws.

24 (2) A final report, including any proposed legislation, shall be presented to the Business,  
25 Labor, and Economic Development Interim Committee before November 30, 1998.

26 **Section 3. Appropriation.**

27 There is appropriated from the General Fund for fiscal year 1997-98:

28 (1) \$2,000 to the Senate to pay for the compensation and expenses of the senators on the  
29 task force;

30 (2) \$3,000 to the House of Representatives to pay for the compensation and expenses of  
31 the members of the House of Representatives on the task force; and

1           (3) \$15,000 to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to pay for staffing  
2 the task force.

3           Section 4. **Repeal date.**

4           This act is repealed November 30, 1998.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 11-10-97 3:15 PM**

A limited legal review of this bill raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

**Committee Note**

The Business, Labor, and Economic Development Interim Committee recommended this bill.