

# H.F. 900

First division engrossment

**Subject** Task force on shelter resident rights and shelter provider practices

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## Overview

This bill establishes a task force on shelter resident rights and shelter provider practices, requires a report, and appropriates an unspecified amount of money in fiscal year 2022 to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) to implement the task force.

## Summary

Section	Description
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1	<b>Task force on shelter resident rights and shelter provider practices.</b>
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**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines the terms “director,” “homeless” or “homelessness,” “resident,” and “shelter.”

**Subd. 2. Establishment.** Establishes a task force on shelter resident rights and shelter provider practices to: (1) examine experiences of shelter residents; (2) examine issues facing shelter providers; (3) develop a bill of rights for, and standards of treatment of, individuals and families residing in shelters; (4) develop shelter standards of practice; and (5) examine the establishment of government oversight and registration of the provision of shelter in Minnesota.

**Subd. 3. Membership.** Paragraph (a) lists the members of the task force. Specifies members are appointed by the director.

Paragraph (b) requires appointments to be made no later than July 1, 2021.

Paragraph (c) requires task force members to serve without compensation, except for members who are individuals who have experienced homelessness and resided in a shelter or who are individuals representing shelter providers. Requires members eligible for compensation to receive expenses as provided for in the statute governing advisory task forces.

Paragraph (d) requires vacancies to be filled by the director consistent with the qualifications of vacating members required under this subdivision.

Section	Description
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**Subd. 4. Meetings; officers.** Paragraph (a) requires the director to convene the first meeting of the task force no later than August 15, 2021, and to provide physical or virtual meeting space.

Paragraph (b) requires the task force to elect a chair and vice chair from among the task force members at its first meeting.

Paragraph (c) requires task force members to meet according to a schedule determined by the members or upon the call of its chair. Requires the task force to meet as often as necessary to accomplish the duties listed in subdivision 5.

Paragraph (d) makes meetings of the task force subject to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law.

**Subd. 5. Duties.** Paragraph (a) requires the task force to seek input from specified individuals, providers, and organizations.

Paragraph (b) requires the task force to: (1) conduct research into and analyze establishing government oversight and registration of homeless shelters in Minnesota; and (2) identify and analyze policies, rights, and responsibilities of shelter residents and shelter providers.

Paragraph (c) requires the task force to review the application of housing support payments for shelter purposes and personal allowance policies to determine how residents can retain a maximum amount of their income.

Paragraph (d) requires the task force to develop recommendations for the establishment of a statewide shelter call line to ensure that all residents are receiving adequate service in a shelter.

Paragraph (e) allows the task force to examine any other related issues.

**Subd. 6. Administrative support.** Requires the MHFA to provide administrative support and meeting space for the task force.

**Subd. 7. Report.** Requires the task force to submit initial and final reports to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over housing and preventing homelessness on specified findings and recommendations.

**Subd. 8. Expiration.** Specifies the task force expires the day following submission of the final report under subdivision 7.

Provides a July 1, 2021, effective date.

Section	Description
2	<p><b>Appropriation; Task Force on Shelter Resident Rights and Shelter Provider Practices.</b></p> <p>Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2022 from the general fund to the commissioner of the MHFA to implement the task force on shelter resident rights and shelter provider practices.</p>



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