



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

**HB2427**

Introduced 2/19/2021, 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, 2022. Repeals the provisions on December 31, 2023. Effective immediately.

LRB102 13015 AWJ 18358 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  
14 and 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 102nd General Assembly:

18 (1) 2 assistant public defenders from the Office of  
19 the 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  
6           may be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in performing  
7           their duties. If a vacancy occurs in the Task Force  
8           membership, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as  
9           the original 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  
16          such 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, 2022.

24          (f) This Section is repealed on December 31, 2023.

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