

Subject Aiding and abetting felony murder task force

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Overview

Under Minnesota law, a person who causes the death of another while committing a felony can be sentenced to a more serious level of murder even if the person's actions were not premeditated or the person did not intend to cause the death of the other person. An accomplice may also be found guilty of the same offense regardless of whether that accomplice intended to cause a death. This bill establishes a task force to review the statutes that establish liability, collect data, and make recommendations to legislature as to whether changes in these laws are appropriate.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Task force on sentencing for aiding and abetting felony murder.
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Establishes a task force to review statutes and data related to charging, convicting, and sentencing individuals who aid and abet the commission of felony murder.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines the terms "aiding and abetting" and "felony murder" for the purposes of the task force.

Subd. 2. Establishment. Establishes a task force to collect and analyze data related to sentencing individuals for aiding and abetting felony murder.

Subd. 3. Membership. Identifies the 12 members of the task force, including the commissioner of corrections, state public defender, a county attorney, and two members representing victims' rights. Requires that appointments must be made by July 30, 2021, and establishes that members serve without compensation.

Subd. 4. Officers; meetings. Provides for the election of a chair, vice-chair, and any other necessary members of the task force. Requires the commissioner of corrections to convene the first meeting of the task force by August 1, 2021. Directs the task force to meet at least monthly and provides that the meetings

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are subject to the open meetings law. Directs the task force to request the cooperation of state agencies, academics, and others.

Subd. 5. Duties. Establishes duties for the task force including collecting and analyzing data related to charges and sentences for individuals convicted of aiding and abetting felony murder, reviewing relevant statutes, receiving input from victims and offenders; analyzing the benefits and unintended consequences of Minnesota’s laws related to charging, convicting, and sentencing individuals for aiding and abetting felony murder; and making recommendations to the legislature.

Subd. 6. Report. Directs the task force to submit a report by January 15, 2022.

Subd. 7. Expiration. Provides that the task force expires the day after it submits its report.



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