

HB 865 -- TASK FORCES

SPONSOR: Riggs

This bill establishes the "Missouri State Technology Task Force", "Twenty-First Century Innovation Hub Task Force", "Decentralizing State Government Task Force", and "State Building Usage Task Force".

The bill specifies the composition, responsibilities, reporting requirements and sunset provisions relating to the task forces.

MISSOURI STATE TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE (Section 1.510, RSMo)

This bill establishes the "Missouri State Technology Task Force".

The mission of the Task Force is to:

- (1) Evaluate the condition of the State's current technology platforms;
- (2) Evaluate the uses of cloud computing and artificial intelligence to improve the State's technological foundation and customer service;
- (3) Evaluate the State's certificate programs and workforce development efforts, including any efforts to use knowledge models to help guide students into certain employment areas from young ages so that they are able to advance in rewarding careers;
- (4) Research and review adaptive technology initiatives for State use;
- (5) Evaluate current cost-spending and cost-saving State technological protocols;
- (6) Make recommendations regarding the condition of the State's technological systems;
- (7) Make recommendations regarding the condition of the State's citizen accessible technology platforms; and
- (8) Make recommendations regarding the use of technology and artificial intelligence to improve State management of records and to enable Missouri citizens and agencies to have more efficient electronic communications and access.

The Task Force membership is listed in the bill, and includes members of the General Assembly: with five members of the House of

Representatives, of which three members are appointed by the Speaker and two members appointed by the Minority Leader; and three members of the Senate, with two appointed by the President Pro Tem and one appointed by the Minority Leader. Membership will also include: appointees of the executive branch; and appointees that are subject matter experts in Missouri-based technology providers, cyber security, web-based communication services, electronic records and storage retention, and large-scale software implementation.

The Task Force must submit a summary of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly before August 28, 2026. The Task Force will be suspended on January 1, 2027, after which a new set of members will be appointed as provided in the bill. The Task Force will resume its operations on January 1, 2028, and report an updated summary of its findings and recommendations for legislation to the General Assembly before August 28, 2028. Thereafter, the Task Force will continue to meet every two years. The Missouri State Technology Task force will sunset 12 years after it's effective date.

21ST CENTURY INNOVATION HUB TASK FORCE (Section 1.511)

This bill establishes the "21st Century Innovation Hub Task Force".

The membership of the Task Force includes but is not limited to: five members of the House of Representatives, with three members to be appointed by the Speaker and two members to be appointed by the Minority Leader; and three members of the Senate with two members to be appointed by the President Pro Tem and one member to be appointed by the Minority Leader. The remaining membership is outlined in the bill.

The mission of the Task Force is to: maximize and expand existing industries that spur technological innovation throughout the state. The Task Force will make recommendations for legislation as well as submit a report outlining a summary of Task Force activities to the General Assembly before August 28, 2026. The Task Force will suspend operations on January 1, 2027, and reconvene on January 1, 2028, to report updated summaries and review recommendations to be presented before August 28, 2028. Thereafter, the Task Force will continue to meet every two years. The 21st Century Innovation Hub Task Force will sunset 12 years after the effective date.

DECENTRALIZING STATE GOVERNMENT TASK FORCE (Section 1.1300)

This bill establishes the "Decentralizing State Government Task Force."

Membership will consist of: three members of the House of Representatives, two appointed by the Speaker and one appointed by the Minority Floor Leader; three members of the Senate, two appointed by the President Pro Tem and one appointed by the Minority Floor Leader; the State Auditor or his or her designee; and the Commissioner of Administration or his or her designee.

The Task Force's duties will include: to evaluate the degree of centralization of the various functions of government; to evaluate the capacity for the private sector and political subdivisions to assume responsibilities currently under the purview of State government; and to make recommendations regarding decentralizing State government to the General Assembly. A summary of the Task Force's activities and recommendations is due to the General Assembly before September 30, 2026. The Task Force will suspend its operation on September 30, 2026, and resume its operations on September 30, 2027, to provide updated summaries and review recommendations to be presented before September 30, 2028. Thereafter, the Task Force will continue to meet every two years. The Decentralizing State Government Task Force will sunset 12 years after the effective date.

STATE BUILDING USAGE TASK FORCE (Section 8.930)

This bill establishes the "State Building Usage Task Force."

The membership of the Task Force will be: three members of the Missouri House of Representatives, two appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the House; three members of the Senate, two appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate and one appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate; the State Auditor or his or her designee; and the Commissioner of Administration or his or her designee.

The duties of the Task Force are to:

- (1) Provide and maintain an accurate account of Missouri State-owned real property;
- (2) Evaluate the conditions of all State-owned real property;
- (3) Evaluate the funding each property is receiving for the purpose of its maintenance and whether said funding is sufficient;
- (4) Make recommendations, including if State-owned property is in need of rehabilitation or liquidation;
- (5) Create detailed plans for the rehabilitation or liquidation of State-owned property that can be implemented within two years; and

(6) Make recommendations regarding funding for the maintenance of State-owned property.

The Task Force must report a summary of its activities and recommendations to the General Assembly by September 30, 2026. The Task Force will resume its operations on September 30, 2027, to provide updates and review recommendations to be presented before September 30, 2028. Thereafter, the Task Force will continue to meet every two years. The State Building Usage Task Force will sunset 12 years after its effective date.

This bill is similar to HB 1814 (2024) and HCS HB 311 (2023).