A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Task Force on Workforce Housing for Teachers and Expansion of Schools; providing legislative findings; creating the task force adjunct to the Department of Economic Opportunity; requiring the department to provide administrative and staff support; specifying the purpose and the composition of the task force; defining the term “workforce housing”; specifying the duties of the task force; requiring the task force to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; requiring state agencies to assist and cooperate with the task force; encouraging local governments to assist and cooperate with the task force; providing for expiration of the task force; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that recent rapid increases in the median purchase price of homes and the cost of rental housing have far outpaced the income of teachers in this state, preventing essential teachers from living in the communities where they serve and thereby creating the need for innovative solutions for the provision of housing opportunities for teachers. The Legislature further finds that there is a need for additional classrooms and instructional space for children. To this end, the Legislature finds that the establishment of the Task Force on Workforce Housing for Teachers and Expansion of Schools is an appropriate measure to identify ways to fulfill
this need in communities throughout the state.

(2) The Task Force on Workforce Housing for Teachers and Expansion of Schools, a task force as defined in s. 20.03(8), Florida Statutes, is created adjunct to the Department of Economic Opportunity to study issues related to the need for affordable housing for teachers and for additional classrooms and instructional space and to identify the best means of meeting those needs. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the task force shall operate in a manner consistent with s. 20.052, Florida Statutes. The department shall provide administrative and staff support relating to the functions of the task force.

(3) The task force is composed of the following members, who shall be appointed no later than August 1, 2023:

(a) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint five members, none of whom may be a member of the Legislature at the time of his or her appointment, as follows:

1. One member of a board of county commissioners;
2. One member of a governing body of a municipality;
3. One member of a district school board;
4. A developer; and
5. A homebuilder.

(b) The Governor shall appoint two members, one of whom is an affordable housing advocate who may not have a current or past direct business relationship with any local government, district school board, developer, or homebuilder. The Governor shall designate one of his or her appointees as chair of the task force.
(c) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of
the Senate.

(d) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed
by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(e) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.

(f) The Secretary of Environmental Protection or his or her
designee.

(g) The Secretary of Economic Opportunity or his or her
designee.

(h) The Secretary of Management Services or his or her
designee.

The chair of the task force may request that representatives of
appropriate federal agencies participate as ex officio,
nonvoting members.

(4) For purposes of this section, the term “workforce
housing” means housing affordable to natural persons or families
whose total annual household income does not exceed 80 percent
of the area median income, adjusted for household size.

(5) The task force shall:

(a) Study the feasibility of using surplus, state-owned
land and buildings for workforce housing for teachers and
classroom and instructional space for students.

(b) Identify the costs associated with the development of
surplus, state-owned land and buildings for workforce housing
for teachers and additional classroom and instructional space,
including costs arising out of potential partnerships between
state government, local governments, and the private sector.

(c) Identify the need and availability of grants for
workforce housing for teachers and additional classroom and instructional space for students.

(d) Identify the areas of this state which have the greatest need for workforce housing for teachers and additional classroom and instructional space for students.

(e) Study the use of mixed-use developments in addressing the need for workforce housing for teachers and additional classroom and instructional space for students.

(f) Study the need for comprehensive planning that addresses the need for workforce housing for teachers and additional classroom and instructional space for students.

(g) Determine whether the creation of a pilot program is necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives of the task force.

(h) Identify any statutory changes necessary to achieve the objectives of the task force.

(6) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2024.

(7) All state agencies shall cooperate with and assist the task force to the fullest extent possible. All local governments are encouraged to assist and cooperate with the task force, as necessary.

(8) This section expires July 1, 2024.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.