

## General Assembly

## Substitute Bill No. 5159

February Session, 2024



## AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE RESPONSIVENESS OF STATE AGENCIES AND THE JUDICIAL BRANCH TO ISSUES CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
- 2 to study the responsiveness of state agencies and the Judicial Branch to
- 3 issues concerning child sexual abuse. The task force shall undertake an
- 4 examination of state agency and Judicial Branch policies and practices
- 5 relating to and impacting children in order to identify opportunities to
- 6 detect, mitigate, prevent and effectively respond to such abuse. For the
- purposes of this section, "state agency" means the Departments of
- 8 Children and Families, Public Health, Developmental Services, Social
- 9 Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Emergency Services
- 10 and Public Protection and Education.
- 11 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 12 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
- 13 who is an attorney admitted to the bar of this state with expertise in
- 14 child welfare;

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- 15 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who is
- a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383 of the general statutes
- with expertise in the treatment of children who have suffered from child

- 18 sexual abuse;
- 19 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
- 20 Representatives, who is a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to
- 21 chapter 383b of the general statutes with expertise in identifying child
- 22 sexual abuse;
- 23 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a
- 24 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes with
- 25 expertise in pediatric medicine;
- 26 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
- 27 Representatives, who is a representative of a state-wide organization
- 28 dedicated to the prevention of sexual violence;
- 29 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a
- representative of a children's advocacy center, as defined in section 17a-
- 31 106a of the general statutes;
- 32 (7) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
- 33 commissioner's designee;
- 34 (8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
- 35 designee;
- 36 (9) The Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the
- 37 commissioner's designee;
- 38 (10) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
- 39 designee;
- 40 (11) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
- 41 the commissioner's designee;
- 42 (12) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
- 43 or the commissioner's designee;
- 44 (13) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

- 45 (14) The Chief Court Administrator, or the administrator's designee;
- 46 (15) The Probate Court Administrator, or the administrator's designee;
- 48 (16) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's 49 designee;
- 50 (17) The Chief Public Defender, or the Chief Public Defender's designee;
- 52 (18) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;
- 53 (19) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, 54 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee;
- 55 (20) A member of the Trafficking in Persons Council, designated by 56 the chairperson of the council;
- 57 (21) A member of the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused 58 Children, established in accordance with the Child Abuse Prevention 59 and Treatment Act, 42 USC 5106c et seq., jointly designated by the 60 cochairpersons of the task force;
- 61 (22) A member of the joint standing committee of the General 62 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, jointly 63 designated by the cochairpersons of the committee; and
- 64 (23) A member of the joint standing committee of the General 65 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, jointly 66 designated by the cochairpersons of the committee.
- (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (22) or (23) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.
- 70 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later 71 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall

72 be filled by the appointing authority.

- (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.
- (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children and the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such recommendations shall include, but need not be limited to, any legislative recommendations and recommendations for changes to the policies or procedures of any state agency or the Judicial Branch that would aid such agency or said branch in the detection, mitigation, prevention and effective response to child sexual abuse. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following			
sections:			
Section 1	from passage	New section	

## Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (a) "and the Judicial Branch" was inserted after "state agencies" for consistency, in Subsec. (b)(21) "pursuant to" was changed to "in accordance with" for accuracy, and in Subsec. (c), ", (22) or (23)" was added for accuracy.

**KID** Joint Favorable Subst.