

HOUSE BILL No. 1257

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 2-5-37.

Synopsis: Child welfare infrastructure strategy task force. Establishes a task force to study the needs of Indiana's youth as it relates to child welfare services for the next five years.

Effective: July 1, 2023.

DeVon

January 11, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs.



First Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2023)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1257

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning family law and juvenile law.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 2-5-37 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2023]:
4 **Chapter 37. Child Welfare Infrastructure Strategy Task Force**
5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "task force" refers to the child**
6 **welfare infrastructure strategy task force established by section 2**
7 **of this chapter.**
8 **Sec. 2. The child welfare infrastructure strategy task force is**
9 **established.**
10 **Sec. 3. (a) The task force consists of the following eighteen (18)**
11 **members:**
12 **(1) Five (5) members of the house committee on family,**
13 **children, and human affairs, appointed as follows:**
14 **(A) Three (3) members appointed by the speaker.**
15 **(B) Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader of**
16 **the house.**
17 **(2) Five (5) members of the senate committee on family and**



- 1 children services, appointed as follows:
- 2 (A) Three (3) members appointed by the president pro
- 3 tempore.
- 4 (B) Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader of
- 5 the senate.
- 6 (3) One (1) member who operates a licensed child placing
- 7 agency (as defined in IC 31-9-2-17.5), appointed by the
- 8 co-chairs.
- 9 (4) One (1) member who operates a child caring institution (as
- 10 defined in IC 31-9-2-16.7), appointed by the co-chairs.
- 11 (5) One (1) member who operates a group home (as defined in
- 12 IC 31-9-2-48.5), appointed by the co-chairs.
- 13 (6) One (1) member who is a provider of family preservation
- 14 services (as described in IC 31-26-5-5), appointed by the
- 15 co-chairs.
- 16 (7) One (1) member who operates a child welfare program (as
- 17 defined in IC 31-26-3.5-1), appointed by the co-chairs.
- 18 (8) The director of the department of child services or the
- 19 director's designee.
- 20 (9) A representative of the Lab for Economic Opportunities
- 21 of the University of Notre Dame, appointed by the co-chairs.
- 22 (10) One (1) member who operates a secure private facility (as
- 23 defined in IC 31-9-2-115) appointed by the co-chairs.
- 24 (b) The speaker shall designate one (1) of the members
- 25 appointed under subsection (a)(1)(A) as co-chair of the task force.
- 26 (c) The president pro tempore shall designate one (1) of the
- 27 members appointed under subsection (a)(2)(A) as co-chair of the
- 28 task force.
- 29 **Sec. 4. (a) Ten (10) members of the task force constitute a**
- 30 **quorum.**
- 31 (b) The affirmative vote of at least a majority of the members at
- 32 a meeting at which a quorum is present is necessary for the task
- 33 force to take official action other than to meet and take testimony.
- 34 (c) The task force shall meet at the call of the co-chairs.
- 35 **Sec. 5. The task force shall study Indiana's child welfare service**
- 36 **needs anticipated during calendar years 2023 through 2028,**
- 37 **including the following:**
- 38 (1) The need for various types of child welfare services.
- 39 (2) Geographic distribution of child welfare service providers.
- 40 (3) The cost and quality of child welfare services.
- 41 (4) Establishment of a method to assess the effectiveness and
- 42 quality of child welfare services offered.



- 1 **Sec. 6. The task force shall, not later than November 1, 2023,**
2 **report findings and recommendations in an electronic format**
3 **under IC 5-14-6 to the executive director of the legislative services**
4 **agency for distribution to the members of the house committee on**
5 **family, children, and human affairs and the senate committee on**
6 **family and children services.**
- 7 **Sec. 7. The task force shall operate under the policies and rules**
8 **of the legislative council.**
- 9 **Sec. 8. Funds necessary to carry out this chapter shall be**
10 **allotted to the task force from funds appropriated to the legislative**
11 **council.**
- 12 **Sec. 9. The legislative services agency shall provide staff support**
13 **to the task force.**
- 14 **Sec. 10. This chapter expires January 1, 2024.**

