

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1237

Introduced by

Representatives Roers Jones, Satrom, Schneider

Senator Clemens

1 A BILL to provide for a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a
2 report to the legislative management and the governor.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. TASK FORCE ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN -**
5 **REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT AND THE GOVERNOR.**

- 6 1. Beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending September 30, 2024, the task
7 force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children is established to develop and
8 implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual
9 abuse. The statewide approach must ensure appropriate policies, funding, staffing,
10 resources, and programming are available. The task force shall build upon the efforts
11 of the 2017-18 North Dakota task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children.
- 12 2. The task force consists of the following members:
- 13 a. One member of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate, one
14 member of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader of the
15 house of representatives, and one member of the minority party appointed by the
16 minority leaders of the senate and the house of representatives;
- 17 b. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive
18 director's designee;
- 19 c. A representative of a children's advocacy center or similar organization that
20 assists in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual and
21 physical abuse cases, appointed by the executive director of the department of
22 human services;
- 23 d. A representative of an organization involved in the prevention of child abuse,
24 appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;

- 1 e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
- 2 f. A representative of law enforcement, appointed by the attorney general;
- 3 g. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive
- 4 director's designee;
- 5 h. One superintendent from an urban school district and one from a rural school
- 6 district in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction;
- 7 i. One principal from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in the
- 8 state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by
- 9 the North Dakota council of educational leaders;
- 10 j. One classroom teacher from a high school, middle school, or elementary school
- 11 in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list
- 12 provided by North Dakota united;
- 13 k. One school counselor from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in
- 14 the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list
- 15 provided by the North Dakota school counselors association; and
- 16 l. Any other organization or individual the task force deems appropriate.
- 17 3. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's
- 18 designee, shall convene the task force. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by
- 19 a majority vote of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet at the
- 20 call of the presiding officer.
- 21 4. The task force shall focus on:
- 22 a. Increasing child sexual abuse prevention education for tribal and nontribal
- 23 children and adults;
- 24 b. Increasing interagency data collection, sharing, and collective analysis;
- 25 c. Supporting resource development for investigations and prosecutions of child
- 26 sexual abuse, including the sentencing, supervision, and treatment of sex
- 27 offenders;
- 28 d. Increasing trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors, and families;
- 29 and
- 30 e. Implementing the remaining recommendations of the November 2018 final report
- 31 of the North Dakota task force on the prevention of child sexual abuse.

- 1 5. The recommendations of the task force may include proposals for specific statutory
2 changes, actions the task force deems necessary and appropriate to initiate
3 awareness education of adults and children, and methods to foster cooperation among
4 state agencies and between the state and local governments in adopting and
5 implementing a policy addressing sexual abuse of children which may include:
6 a. Developmentally appropriate resources for students in prekindergarten through
7 grade twelve;
8 b. Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse;
9 c. Educational information to parents or guardians provided in school handbooks
10 regarding the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed
11 assistance, referral, or resource information;
12 d. Available counseling and resources for students affected by sexual abuse;
13 e. Emotional and educational support for a child of abuse to continue to be
14 successful in school; and
15 f. Any other action deemed appropriate.
16 6. Before July first of each even-numbered year, the task force shall submit a report,
17 together with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and
18 the governor. Before July 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a final report, together
19 with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and the
20 governor.