

1 H.457

2 Introduced by Representatives Haas of Rochester, Batchelor of Derby,

3 Donahue of Northfield, Krowinski of Burlington, Masland of

4 Thetford, and Mrowicki of Putney

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Corrections; human services; children; incarcerated parents

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a task
9 force to provide oversight and technical assistance to communities establishing
10 procedures and policies that improve the lives of children and families affected
11 by the criminal justice system.

12 An act relating to a task force on children and families affected by the
13 criminal justice system

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. REMEMBER THE CHILDREN TASK FORCE

16 (a) There is created a task force to examine how the criminal justice system
17 affects the lives of children and families, to develop best practices that are
18 consistent with the recommendations of the Council of State Governments to
19 improve the lives of children and families that are affected, and to provide
20 structure and leadership with regard to prioritizing federal funding

1 opportunities. The task force shall be called the “Remember the Children Task
2 Force.”

3 (b) The Task Force members shall include:

4 (1) a member of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the
5 Speaker of the House;

6 (2) a member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Committee on
7 Committees;

8 (3) a representative of Vermont’s congressional delegation, to be
9 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

10 (4) the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families or
11 designee;

12 (5) the Director of Family Services in the Department of Corrections;

13 (6) a representative of law enforcement to be appointed by the Chair of
14 the Task Force;

15 (7) the Court Administrator or designee;

16 (8) the Guardian Ad Litem Coordinator for the Vermont Judiciary or
17 designee;

18 (9) the Secretary of the Agency of Education or designee;

19 (10) the Director of the Lamoille County Justice Project or designee;

20 (11) the Executive Director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic
21 and Sexual Violence or designee;

1 (12) the Director of Girl Scouts Beyond Bars or designee;

2 (13) the Director of the Visiting Nurse Association Fathers and Children

3 Together program or designee; and

4 (14) a representative from Kids-A-Part, who shall serve as the Chair of
5 the Task Force.

6 (c) For attendance at a meeting when the General Assembly is not in
7 session, legislative members of the Task Force shall be entitled to
8 compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses as provided under
9 2 V.S.A. § 406(a).

10 (d) The Task Force created under this section shall:

11 (1) review existing policies and procedures related to children and
12 families affected by the criminal justice system;

13 (2) develop recommendations regarding children and families affected
14 by the criminal justice system, including any changes to state policies or
15 legislation that are needed;

16 (3) provide oversight and technical assistance to communities
17 establishing policies and procedures to improve the lives of children and
18 families affected by the criminal justice system;

19 (4) provide structure and leadership to communities and nonprofit
20 organizations with regard to prioritizing federal funding opportunities; and

1 (5) report its findings and recommendations on an annual basis on or
2 before January 15 to the Joint Committee on Corrections Oversight, the House
3 Committee on Corrections and Institutions, and the Senate Committee on
4 Institutions.

5 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.