



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6525

LCO No. 3583

03583 _____ HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

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 Department of Children and Families. The task force shall
3 (1) evaluate the department's policies, practices and procedures,
4 including, but not limited to, whether the Commissioner of Children
5 and Families may suspend a child's visitation with his or her parent
6 before an evidentiary hearing has occurred on the issue of visitation;
7 (2) consider possible changes in the structure and organization of the
8 department, including whether any functions of the department
9 should be transferred to other departments or agencies; and (3)
10 recommend any changes in the areas described in subdivisions (1) and
11 (2) of this subsection, including the costs associated with each change,
12 a time frame for implementation and any statutory changes necessary
13 to effectuate such recommendations.
- 14 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- 15 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 16 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 17 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
18 Representatives;
- 19 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 20 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
21 Representatives; and
- 22 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.
- 23 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
24 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
25 of the General Assembly.
- 26 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
27 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
28 filled by the appointing authority.
- 29 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
30 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
31 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
32 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held no later
33 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.
- 34 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
35 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
36 services shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 37 (g) Not later than January 1, 2010, the task force shall submit a
38 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
39 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
40 relating to human services, in accordance with the provisions of
41 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on
42 the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2010, whichever is

43 later.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To require a study of issues concerning oversight and reorganization of the Department of Children and Families.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]