



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2011

LCO No. 8008

HB0645308008HDO

Offered by:

REP. SERRA, 33rd Dist.
SEN. PRAGUE, 19th Dist.
REP. FREY, 111th Dist.

SEN. KELLY, 21st Dist.
REP. FOX, 146th Dist.
REP. HETHERINGTON, 125th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6453

File No. 107

Cal. No. 87

"AN ACT CONCERNING GRANDPARENTS' VISITATION RIGHTS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
4 to study issues related to visitation rights for grandparents. Such study
5 shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of (1) the legal and
6 social issues related to grandparents' access to visitation, (2) the impact
7 of the loss of contact on families, (3) social supports to promote the
8 continuation of these relationships, and (4) legislative proposals that
9 are consistent with the state constitution.

10 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

11 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
12 who shall be a representative of an advocacy group representing the
13 interests of grandparents seeking visitation rights;

14 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who

15 shall be a representative of an advocacy group representing the
16 interests of children;

17 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
18 Representatives, who shall be a representative of a Connecticut legal
19 services program and who has experience working in family law;

20 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
21 a representative of the family law section of the Connecticut Bar
22 Association;

23 (5) Three appointed by the minority leader of the House of
24 Representatives, one who shall be an attorney who has experience
25 representing the interests of parents and two who shall be chosen from
26 the ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General
27 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging or the
28 judiciary or of the select committee of the General Assembly having
29 cognizance of matters relating to children;

30 (6) Three appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one who
31 shall be a social work professional and two who shall be chosen from
32 the ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General
33 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging or the
34 judiciary or of the select committee of the General Assembly having
35 cognizance of matters relating to children;

36 (7) The chairs of the joint committee of the General Assembly
37 having cognizance of matters relating to aging, or their designees;

38 (8) The chairs of the joint committee of the General Assembly
39 having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, or their
40 designees;

41 (9) The chairs of the select committee of the General Assembly
42 having cognizance of matters relating to children, or their designees;

43 (10) A representative of the family law division of the Judicial
44 Branch; and

45 (11) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
46 commissioner's designee.

47 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
48 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
49 of the General Assembly.

50 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
51 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
52 filled by the appointing authority.

53 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
54 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task
55 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons
56 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held
57 not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

58 (f) The administrative staff of the Commission on Aging shall serve
59 as administrative staff of the task force, within available
60 appropriations.

61 (g) Not later than February 1, 2012, the task force shall submit a
62 report on its findings and recommendations, including any
63 recommendations for legislation to enhance visitation rights for
64 grandparents, to the joint standing committees of the General
65 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging and the
66 judiciary and to the select committee of the General Assembly having
67 cognizance of matters relating to children, in accordance with the
68 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall
69 terminate on the date that it submits such report or February 1, 2012,
70 whichever is later."

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