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COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
FEBRUARY 14, 2013
RAISED BILL 158, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

Raised Bill 158, An Act Establishing a Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children would create a task force to focus on preventing sexual abuse in children . The task force would focus on reviewing, adopting and training educators in curriculum to educate children on sexual abuse. The Office of Chief Public Defender is not opposed to this proposal. As the agency responsible for providing attorneys and guardians' ad litem to children in the child welfare system, OCPD recognizes that child sexual abuse is something that creates lifelong issues for child victims. Representatives from OCPD sit on the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children, which includes representatives from OCPD, DCF, SDE, law enforcement, he Division of Criminal Justice, the Attorney General's Office and representatives from child guidance clinics and multi disciplinary teams that assess and treat the young victims of sexual abuse. The Governor's Task Force manages federal money earmarked for child abuse prevention and treatment. That task force already funds several training programs for educators. It would be appropriate to include members of the Governor's Task Force on any new panel to maximize collaboration and efficient use of funds. We would also ask that the Chief Public Defender or her designee be added to the new task force.

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