



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2013

LCO No. 7493

SB0097207493SR0

Offered by:
SEN. LINARES, 33rd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 972 File No. 195 Cal. No. 177

(As Amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A")

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OF YOUTHS."

1 Strike section 5 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu
2 thereof:

3 "(a) There is established a Children's Mental Health Task Force to
4 study the effects of nutrition, genetics, environmental toxins,
5 complementary and alternative treatments and psychotropic drugs on
6 the mental, emotional and behavioral health of children within the
7 state. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation but
8 shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses
9 necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. The task force
10 shall: (1) Study the effects of nutrition, genetics, environmental toxins,
11 complementary and alternative treatments and psychotropic drugs on
12 the mental, emotional and behavioral health of children; (2) gather and
13 maintain current information regarding said effects; and (3) advise the
14 General Assembly and Governor concerning the coordination and

15 administration of state programs that may address the impact of said
16 effects on the mental, emotional and behavioral health of children
17 using a results-based accountability framework.

18 (b) The task force shall consist of the Commissioner of Social
19 Services, or said commissioner's designee, the chairpersons and
20 ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General
21 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, and ten
22 members appointed as follows:

23 (1) A psychologist licensed under chapter 383 of the general statutes
24 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

25 (2) A child psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in this state
26 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

27 (3) A licensed and board-certified physician specializing in genetics
28 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

29 (4) A public health expert specializing in the impact of
30 environmental toxins on children's health appointed by the majority
31 leader of the House of Representatives;

32 (5) A toxicology expert specializing in the impact of environmental
33 toxins on children's health appointed by the minority leader of the
34 Senate;

35 (6) A full-time member of the faculty at a university or college in the
36 state specializing in the impact of environmental toxins on children's
37 health appointed by the minority leader of the House of
38 Representatives;

39 (7) A complementary and alternative medicine or integrative
40 therapy expert specializing in the treatment of physical, mental,
41 emotional and behavioral health issues in children appointed by the
42 Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General
43 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children;

44 (8) An educator with expertise providing school-based mental
45 health services in collaboration with community-based mental health
46 service providers appointed by the House chairperson of the joint
47 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
48 matters relating to children; and

49 (9) A dietitian-nutritionist licensed under chapter 384b of the
50 general statutes appointed by the senate ranking member of the joint
51 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
52 matters relating to children;

53 (10) A psychotropic pharmacist appointed by the house ranking
54 member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
55 having cognizance of matters relating to children.

56 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
57 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
58 filled by the appointing authority.

59 (d) The chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the task force shall be
60 chosen by the members of the task force from among the members of
61 the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the
62 task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the
63 effective date of this section.

64 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
65 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
66 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

67 (f) Not later than September 30, 2014, the task force shall submit a
68 report on its findings and recommendations to the Commissioner of
69 Children and Families and the joint standing committee of the General
70 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in
71 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
72 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or
73 September 30, 2014, whichever is later."