



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2013

LCO No. 7516

SB0097207516SR0

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. The
8 task force shall: (1) Study the effects of nutrition, genetics,
9 environmental toxins, complementary and alternative treatments and
10 psychotropic drugs on the mental, emotional and behavioral health of
11 children; (2) gather and maintain current information regarding said
12 effects; and (3) advise the General Assembly and Governor concerning
13 the coordination and administration of state programs that may
14 address the impact of said effects on the mental, emotional and

15 behavioral health of children using a results-based accountability
16 framework.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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