



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**Committee Bill No. 303**

LCO No. 4321



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN EXPOSED TO FAMILY VIOLENCE.***

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 state-wide response to incidents of family violence. Such  
3 study shall include, but not be limited to, (1) an examination of  
4 existing policies and procedures used by the Department of Children  
5 and Families, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction  
6 Services, health care professionals, law enforcement, guardians ad  
7 litem, attorneys for minor children and the Judicial Branch for minors  
8 who are exposed to family violence, and (2) the development of a state-  
9 wide model policy for use by (A) the Department of Children and  
10 Families, including organizations with which it contracts services; (B)  
11 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, including  
12 organizations with which it contracts services; (C) health care  
13 professionals; (D) guardians ad litem; (E) attorneys for minor children;  
14 (F) law enforcement; (G) and the Judicial Branch, when responding to  
15 minors who are exposed to family violence.
- 16 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- 17 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 18 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 19 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
20 Representatives;
- 21 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 22 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
23 Representatives;
- 24 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 25 (7) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the  
26 commissioner's designee;
- 27 (8) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or  
28 the commissioner's designee;
- 29 (9) The Victim Advocate of the Office of the Victim Advocate, or the  
30 victim advocate's designee; and
- 31 (10) The executive director of the Court Support Services Division of  
32 the Judicial Branch, or the executive director's designee.
- 33 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
34 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
35 of the General Assembly.
- 36 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than  
37 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
38 filled by the appointing authority.
- 39 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
40 pro tempore of the Senate shall select two chairpersons of the task  
41 force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons  
42 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held

43 not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

44 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
45 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children  
46 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

47 (g) Not later than January 1, 2016, the task force shall submit a  
48 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
49 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
50 relating to children, mental health and addiction services and  
51 judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
52 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
53 submits such report or January 1, 2016, whichever is 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 establish a task force to study the state-wide response to incidents of family violence.

*[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.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.; SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.  
SEN. BYE, 5th Dist.; SEN. BARTOLOMEO, 13th Dist.  
SEN. CASSANO, 4th Dist.; SEN. COLEMAN, 2nd Dist.  
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