

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 303**

LCO No. 4745

**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; and (G) 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) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
18 one of whom shall represent the Office of the Child Advocate, one of

19 whom shall currently serve as an executive director of a domestic  
20 violence organization and one of whom shall represent a  
21 multidisciplinary team established by the Commissioner of Children  
22 and Families pursuant to section 17a-106a of the general statutes;

23 (2) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one  
24 of whom shall represent the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic  
25 Violence, one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Children's  
26 Medical Center and specialize in medical care of children exposed by  
27 family violence and one of whom shall be an adult victim of family  
28 violence;

29 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
30 Representatives, one of whom shall represent a designated child  
31 advocacy center and one of whom shall be a psychiatrist or  
32 psychologist specializing in the mental health care of children exposed  
33 to family violence;

34 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of  
35 whom shall represent the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association and  
36 one of whom shall be a currently appointed guardian ad litem;

37 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
38 Representatives, one of whom shall represent the Department of  
39 Mental Health and Addiction Services and one of whom shall be a  
40 youth victim exposed to family violence;

41 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of  
42 whom shall represent the Department of Children and Families and  
43 one of whom shall represent the Office of the Chief Public Defender;

44 (7) Three appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall represent  
45 the Office of Early Childhood, one of whom shall represent the Office  
46 of the Chief State's Attorney and one of whom shall represent the  
47 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; and

48 (8) Two appointed by the Chief Court Administrator, one of whom

49 shall be a judge of the Superior Court assigned to hear family matters  
50 and one of whom shall represent the Judicial Branch Court Support  
51 Services Division.

52 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (1)  
53 to (8), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of  
54 the General Assembly.

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

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

66 (g) Not later than January 15, 2016, the task force shall submit a  
67 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
68 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
69 relating to human services and children, in accordance with the  
70 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall  
71 terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 15, 2016,  
72 whichever is later.

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