



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6297

January Session, 2017

* _____HB06297KID____030717_____*

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY VOLUNTARY
ADMISSIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.**

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 voluntary services program operated by the Department
3 of Children and Families. The task force shall consider and make
4 recommendations concerning (1) whether the general statutes should
5 be amended to prohibit the Commissioner of Children and Families
6 from requesting or requiring that the parent or guardian of a child or
7 youth admitted to the department on a voluntary basis terminate such
8 parent or guardian's parental rights or transfer legal custody of the
9 child or youth to the department, (2) methods of increasing access to
10 voluntary services provided by the department, including, but not
11 limited to, closing gaps in private insurance coverage that prevent
12 children and youths from accessing such services and aiding parents
13 and guardians in accessing such services on behalf of children and
14 youths without relinquishing custody of such children and youths to
15 the department, (3) methods of improving the voluntary services
16 provided by the department, (4) methods of improving the
17 department's case management services and communication with
18 other state agencies regarding case management, and (5) the ability of
19 service providers that provide such voluntary services to meet the
20 needs of children and youths admitted to the department on a

21 voluntary basis, including, but not limited to, whether the number of
22 available service providers is adequate to meet such needs.

23 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

24 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
25 one of whom shall be a pediatrician who serves adolescents and one of
26 whom shall be a representative of a school-based health center;

27 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
28 of whom shall be a child psychiatrist and one of whom shall be a
29 primary care provider who serves children and youths;

30 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
31 Representatives, one of whom shall be a school psychologist and one
32 of whom shall be a representative of a community health center;

33 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of
34 whom shall be a judge of probate and one of whom shall be a parent or
35 guardian of a child or youth who has utilized the department's
36 voluntary services program;

37 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
38 Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of an
39 organization that specializes in the issue of custody relinquishment
40 prevention and one of whom shall be a representative of an
41 organization that advocates for consumers of the department's
42 voluntary services program;

43 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of
44 whom shall be a health insurer and one of whom shall be a
45 representative of a service provider that provides voluntary services
46 through the department;

47 (7) One appointed by the Governor, who shall be a representative of
48 a child advocacy organization;

49 (8) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
50 commissioner's designee;

51 (9) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
52 the commissioner's designee;

53 (10) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
54 designee;

55 (11) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
56 designee;

57 (12) The Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the
58 commissioner's designee;

59 (13) The Insurance Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;
60 and

61 (14) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee.

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

65 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
66 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
67 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
68 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
69 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. A majority
70 of members of the task force shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote
71 of a quorum shall be required for any official action of the task force. A
72 tie vote shall be decided by the chairpersons. The task force shall meet
73 monthly and at other times upon the call of the chairpersons or a
74 quorum of the task force.

75 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
76 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children

77 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

78 (f) Not later than February 1, 2018, the task force shall submit a
79 report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor, speaker
80 of the House of Representatives, president pro tempore of the Senate,
81 minority leader of the House of Representatives, minority leader of the
82 Senate and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
83 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, children,
84 education, human services, insurance and public health, in accordance
85 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task
86 force shall provide additional information regarding its findings and
87 recommendations at the request of the Governor or a member of the
88 General Assembly. The task force shall terminate on July 1, 2018.

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

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b)(4), the words "or youth" were added for consistency.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*