



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1005

January Session, 2023



AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE POST-PANDEMIC NEEDS OF CHILDREN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 24 of public act 22-81 is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a task force to continue to study the
4 comprehensive needs of children in the state and the extent to which
5 such needs are being met by educators, community members and local
6 and state agencies. The task force shall (1) address subdivisions (1) to
7 (6), inclusive, of subsection (a) of section 30 of public act 21-46, (2)
8 provide recommendations to meet the demand for infant and toddler
9 care in the state by increasing access to and enrollment in child care
10 centers, group child care homes and family child care homes, and
11 identify resources to assist such centers and homes in meeting such
12 demand, [and] (3) study the feasibility of adjusting school start times
13 to improve students' mental and physical well-being, and (4) conduct a
14 needs assessment for children that identifies gaps between existing
15 conditions and desired outcomes, and the extent to which such gaps
16 are attributable to the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As used in
17 this section, "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by
18 the World Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus
19 2019, and any related mutation thereof recognized by the World

20 Health Organization as a communicable respiratory disease.

21 (b) The task force shall consist of the members appointed to the task
22 force to study the comprehensive needs of children pursuant to
23 subsection (b) of section 30 of public act 21-46, except that if any
24 member declines such appointment, a new appointee shall be selected
25 by the appointing authority pursuant to said subsection. On and after
26 the effective date of this section, the membership of the task force shall
27 include a representative from the Connecticut Youth Services
28 Association, designated by the association.

29 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (1)
30 to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of section 30 of public act 21-46 may
31 be a member of the General Assembly.

32 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
33 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
34 shall be filled by the appointing authority not later than thirty days
35 after the vacancy occurs. If a vacancy is not filled by the appointing
36 authority, the chairpersons of the task force may fill such vacancy.

37 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
38 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
39 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
40 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
41 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

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

45 (g) Not later than January 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024, the task force
46 shall update the report issued pursuant to subsection (g) of section 30
47 of public act 21-46, and submit such updated report and any additional
48 findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the
49 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in
50 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

51 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or
52 [January] July 1, 2024, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	PA 22-81, Sec. 24
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KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*