



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 218***

LCO No. 1186



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE CREATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF A STATE-WIDE PROGRAM FOR THE DELIVERY OF BEREAVEMENT AND GRIEF COUNSELING SERVICES TO 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 develop recommendations for the creation and administration of a  
3 state-wide program for the delivery of bereavement and grief  
4 counseling services to children and families at no cost to participants.  
5 The task force shall make recommendations for (1) the appropriate  
6 agency or agencies to administer such program, (2) the scope of services  
7 offered by such program, including, but not limited to, the provision of  
8 culturally informed services and services to marginalized communities,  
9 (3) the role that existing bereavement and grief counseling services  
10 programs and school-based health centers should have in the delivery  
11 of services under such program, (4) the delivery of services by such  
12 program in areas of the state where such services do not currently exist  
13 or are not sufficient, and the resources that will be needed to deliver  
14 services to such areas, (5) long-term funding sources for such program,

15 and (6) any additional considerations identified by the task force.

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

17 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
18 who shall be a representative of a bereavement and grief counseling  
19 services program that serves children and families;

20 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
21 shall be a representative of a state-wide association of school-based  
22 health centers;

23 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
24 Representatives, who shall be a representative of a state-wide  
25 association of school counselors;

26 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
27 a representative of the state chapter of a national nonprofit organization  
28 that works to improve the lives of children and families;

29 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
30 Representatives, who shall be a representative of a child study center  
31 affiliated with a medical school in the state;

32 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
33 a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383 of the general statutes,  
34 who has expertise in treating bereaved children;

35 (7) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's  
36 designee;

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

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

41 (10) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,  
42 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.

43 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
44 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
45 of the General Assembly.

46 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
47 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
48 be filled by the appointing authority.

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

54 (f) The administrative staff of the Commission on Women, Children,  
55 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall serve as administrative staff of  
56 the task force.

57 (g) Not later than July 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report on  
58 its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of  
59 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
60 health and children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
61 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
62 submits such report or July 1, 2025, 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 creation and administration of a state-wide program for the delivery of bereavement and grief counseling services to children and families.

*[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.]*