



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 3761



Offered by:

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SEN. BERTHEL, 32<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. HWANG, 28<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. KISSEL, 7<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MARTIN, 31<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SOMERS, 18<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. CICARELLA, 34<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
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SEN. GORDON, 35<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
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To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 327

File No. 120

Cal. No. 106

(As Amended By Senate Amendment Schedule "A")

**"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF HATE SPEECH AND BULLYING ON CHILDREN."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
4 to study the effects and social impact of hate speech and bullying on  
5 children. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) an  
6 analysis of the effects of hate speech and bullying on the mental and  
7 physical health and academic achievement of children, (2) an analysis of  
8 the settings and environments in which children are most likely to  
9 encounter and participate in hate speech or bullying, including whether  
10 such hate speech or bullying occurs in person or through Internet-based

11 applications or forums, (3) an examination of whether children  
12 encounter hate speech or bullying that is perpetrated by children or  
13 adults, or both, in each such setting or environment, (4) an analysis of  
14 the factors that may contribute to a child's likelihood of encountering  
15 hate speech or bullying, and a child or adult's likelihood of perpetrating  
16 hate speech or bullying, and (5) recommendations for strategies to  
17 prevent, reduce and address the effects of hate speech and bullying in  
18 communities and schools in the state, including, but not limited to, the  
19 implementation of (A) school, community-based and state-wide  
20 programs (i) for the prevention and reduction of hate speech and  
21 bullying, and (ii) to reduce the effects on children of hate speech and  
22 bullying, (B) public media campaigns, and (C) statutory changes  
23 concerning the prevention and reduction of and response to hate speech  
24 and bullying in schools. For the purposes of this section, "hate speech"  
25 means any form of expression through which a child or adult intends to  
26 vilify, humiliate or incite hatred against a child on the basis of such  
27 child's race, religion, skin color, sex, gender identity, ethnicity,  
28 disability, body weight or body type or national origin, and "bullying"  
29 means unwanted and aggressive behavior among children that involves  
30 a real or perceived power imbalance.

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

32 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
33 one of whom shall be a representative of an organization that works to  
34 improve the behavioral health and well-being of children and one of  
35 whom shall be a representative of an organization that advocates for  
36 special education equity for children;

37 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of  
38 whom shall be a representative of an organization that works to  
39 eliminate discrimination based on religion, and one of whom shall be a  
40 representative of a state-wide association of school-based health centers;

41 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
42 Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of a state-wide

43 association of boards of education and one of whom shall be a  
44 representative of an organization that works to eliminate discrimination  
45 based on race;

46 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom  
47 shall be a representative of a state-wide association of public school  
48 superintendents and one of whom shall be a representative of an  
49 organization that works to eliminate discrimination based on sexual and  
50 gender identity;

51 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
52 Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of a state chapter  
53 of a national association of providers of pediatric care;

54 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom  
55 shall be a representative of an organization that works to eliminate  
56 discrimination based on disability status;

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

59 (8) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or  
60 the commissioner's designee;

61 (9) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the  
62 commissioner's designee;

63 (10) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

64 (11) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's  
65 designee;

66 (12) The executive director of the Commission on Human Rights and  
67 Opportunities, or the executive director's designee; and

68 (13) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,  
69 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.

70 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),

71 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
72 of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

84 (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report  
85 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
86 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,  
87 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.  
88 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or  
89 January 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