

House Substitute for SENATE BILL No. 126

By Committee on Children and Seniors

3-23

1 AN ACT establishing the foster care task force.

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3 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

4 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the foster care task force.
5 The task force shall: Review the level of oversight and supervision by the
6 Kansas department for children and families over foster care contractors,
7 including, but not limited to, reports from the division of post audit and the
8 2015 and 2016 special committees on foster care adequacy; and review the
9 duties of those individuals responsible for foster children and other such
10 areas of concern regarding foster care. At the beginning of the 2018
11 regular session of the legislature, the task force shall submit to the
12 president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the
13 house committee on children and seniors and the senate committee on
14 public health and welfare a corrective action plan regarding the safety and
15 well-being of the children of the state of Kansas, and shall submit progress
16 reports at the beginning of the regular session of the legislature each year
17 thereafter.

18 (b) The department shall, on request, provide data and information on
19 foster care programs, including, but not limited to:

20 (1) The number of children in foster care;

21 (2) the number of children in foster care who are outside the county
22 of original residence;

23 (3) the average length of stay in foster care before reintegration with
24 the child's parents or placement in a permanent home;

25 (4) foster home licensing and inspection data, including a list of
26 prohibitive offenses for foster home licensure;

27 (5) the annual numbers and types of cases of substantiated and
28 documented maltreatment of foster children and actions taken by the
29 department and its contracting agencies to resolve such cases;

30 (6) foster home alcohol, tobacco and firearm use rules and
31 regulations;

32 (7) the latest quarterly reports from foster care contractors;

33 (8) an annual crossover youth report examining the number of youth
34 exiting home placement who are subsequently adjudicated as juvenile
35 offenders;

36 (9) the number and the types of arrests or convictions, or both, of

1 foster parents;

2 (10) the highest, lowest and average number of days between a child's
3 removal from the parental home and adjudication; and

4 (11) information on the number of days of school missed per year by
5 foster care children, by grade, for grades one through 12.

6 (c) The task force shall consist of 18 members appointed as follows:

7 (1) Two members of the house committee on children and seniors
8 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

9 (2) one member of the house committee on children and seniors
10 appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;

11 (3) two members of the senate committee on public health and
12 welfare appointed by the president of the senate;

13 (4) one member of the senate committee on public health and welfare
14 appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

15 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the
16 speaker of the house of representatives;

17 (6) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
18 minority leader of the house of representatives;

19 (7) two members of the senate appointed by the president of the
20 senate;

21 (8) one member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the
22 senate; and

23 (9) six members jointly appointed by the speaker of the house of
24 representatives and the president of the senate, as follows:

25 (A) A district court judge who maintains a child in need of care
26 docket;

27 (B) a district magistrate judge appointed or elected to serve a county
28 in Kansas other than Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee or Wyandotte
29 county;

30 (C) a member of CASA;

31 (D) a social worker licensed by the behavioral sciences regulatory
32 board;

33 (E) a guardian ad litem; and

34 (F) a law enforcement officer.

35 (d) (1) Legislative members shall be appointed for terms coinciding
36 with the legislative terms for which such legislative members are elected
37 or appointed.

38 (2) Members jointly appointed by the speaker of the house of
39 representatives and the president of the senate shall be appointed for a
40 term ending on July 1, 2020.

41 (3) All members appointed to fill vacancies in the membership of the
42 task force and all members appointed to succeed members appointed to
43 membership on the task force shall be appointed in the manner provided

1 for the original appointment of the member succeeded.

2 (e) The members originally appointed as members of the task force
3 shall meet, upon the call of an appointed member designated by the
4 speaker of the house of representatives as the first chairperson, within 30
5 days of the effective date of this act. The vice-chairperson of the task force
6 shall be elected by a quorum of the task force. Annually thereafter, the
7 chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be elected by a quorum of the task
8 force members. On and after the effective date of this act, the task force
9 shall meet at least six times a year on the call of the chairperson.
10 Additional meetings may be held on the call of the chairperson when
11 urgent circumstances exist that require such meetings. Nine members of
12 the task force shall constitute a quorum.

13 (f) If approved by the legislative coordinating council, members of
14 the task force attending meetings authorized by the task force shall receive
15 amounts provided for by K.S.A. 75-3223(e), and amendments thereto.

16 (g) In accordance with K.S.A. 46-1204, and amendments thereto, the
17 legislative coordinating council may provide for such legislative and
18 professional services as may be requested by the task force.

19 (h) The provisions of this section shall expire on July 1, 2020.

20 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
21 publication in the Kansas register.