

HOUSE BILL No. 2359

By Committee on Children and Seniors

2-15

1 AN ACT concerning children and minors; establishing the Kansas child
2 welfare services delivery task force.

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

5 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas child welfare
6 services delivery task force. The task force shall:

7 (1) Determine the monetary costs required to adequately fund high-
8 quality state child welfare services;

9 (2) evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of the privatization of
10 state child welfare services;

11 (3) determine the best level of collaboration among private and public
12 entities that are responsible for the delivery of state child welfare services;
13 and

14 (4) submit reports to the governor and the legislature on a semi-
15 annual basis, beginning on February 1, 2020, concerning the findings of
16 the task force and any recommended changes of state statutes, rules and
17 regulations, policies and programs that are related to such findings.

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

19 (1) One member of the house of representatives, appointed by the
20 speaker of the house;

21 (2) one member of the house of representatives, appointed by the
22 minority leader of the house;

23 (3) one member of the senate, appointed by the senate president;

24 (4) one member of the senate, appointed by the minority leader of the
25 senate;

26 (5) one member appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court;

27 (6) the secretary for children and families or the secretary's designee;

28 (7) the director of prevention and protection services for the Kansas
29 department for children and families;

30 (8) two representatives of Kansas court-appointed special advocates,
31 appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court;

32 (9) one member of a citizen review board established pursuant to the
33 revised Kansas code for care of children, appointed by the chief justice of
34 the supreme court;

35 (10) one member representing a foster parent organization, appointed
36 by the judicial council;

1 (11) one guardian ad litem with experience representing children in
2 child in need of care cases, appointed by the judicial council;

3 (12) one family law attorney with experience providing legal services
4 to parents and grandparents in child in need of care cases, appointed by the
5 judicial council;

6 (13) one social worker licensed by the behavioral sciences regulatory
7 board, appointed by the judicial council;

8 (14) one member of the state child death review board established by
9 K.S.A. 22a-243, and amendments thereto, appointed by the board;

10 (15) one county or district attorney with experience in child in need
11 of care cases, appointed by the Kansas county and district attorneys
12 association;

13 (16) one law enforcement officer, appointed by the Kansas
14 association of chiefs of police; and

15 (17) one representative from each entity that contracts with the
16 Kansas department for children and families to provide foster care, family
17 preservation, reintegration and permanency placement services, appointed
18 by each such entity.

19 (c) (1) The members of the task force shall be appointed on or before
20 August 1, 2019. The appointing authorities listed in subsection (b) shall
21 provide notice of such appointments to the governor's office on the date of
22 such appointment.

23 (2) Members of the task force shall serve a term of two years,
24 beginning on the date of the organizational meeting of the task force, as
25 described in paragraph (3). Any vacancy in the membership of the task
26 force shall be filled by appointment and accompanied by notice in the
27 same manner prescribed in this section for the original appointment.

28 (3) The governor shall appoint a chairperson and vice-chairperson
29 from the appointed members. On or before September 1, 2019, such
30 appointed chairperson shall call an organizational meeting of the task
31 force. At such organizational meeting, the task force shall consider dates
32 for future meetings and the agenda for such meetings.

33 (d) (1) The task force may meet at any time and at any place within
34 the state on the call of the chairperson or a majority of the members of the
35 task force.

36 (2) A quorum of the task force shall be a majority of the appointed
37 members. All actions of the task force shall be by motion adopted by a
38 majority of those members present when there is a quorum.

39 (3) The chairperson of the task force shall serve as the official
40 custodian of the public records of the task force. As used in this paragraph,
41 "official custodian" and "public records" mean the same as provided in the
42 Kansas open records act, K.S.A. 45-215 et seq., and amendments thereto.

43 (4) Staff of the office of revisor of statutes, the legislative research

1 department and the division of legislative administrative services shall
2 provide assistance as may be requested by the task force.

3 (e) Members of the task force shall not be paid compensation, but
4 shall be paid amounts for expenses, mileage and subsistence as provided in
5 K.S.A. 75-3223(e), and amendments thereto. The expenses, mileage and
6 subsistence as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223(e), and amendments thereto,
7 shall be paid from available appropriations of the Kansas department for
8 children and families, except that expenses of members who are employed
9 by a state agency shall be reimbursed by that state agency.

10 (f) The provisions of this section shall expire on June 30, 2022.

11 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
12 publication in the statute book.