

General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5213

February Session, 2024



AN ACT CONCERNING DISCONNECTED YOUTH.

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

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "At-risk student" means a student who is enrolled in high school
- and is in danger of not graduating due to (A) not earning sufficient
- 4 credits to meet the high school graduation requirements under section
- 5 10-221a of the general statutes, (B) being a chronically absent child, or
- 6 (C) behavioral and other disciplinary issues, such as suspensions and
- 7 expulsions;
- 8 (2) "Chronically absent child" has the same meaning as provided in
- 9 section 10-198c of the general statutes; and
- 10 (3) "Disconnected youth" means an individual who is fourteen to
- 11 twenty-six years of age, inclusive, and (A) holds a high school diploma
- but is neither employed nor attending an institution of higher education
- or otherwise pursuing secondary education, (B) does not hold a high
- 14 school diploma and is employed, (C) does not hold a high school
- 15 diploma and is not employed, or (D) is incarcerated.
- 16 (b) The Two-Generational Advisory Board, established pursuant to
- section 17b-112*l* of the general statutes, shall develop a plan to address

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18 strategies to assist at-risk students and reengage disconnected youth. 19 Such plan shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) ways in which to identify and address the needs of individuals who are defined as 20 21 disconnected youth, (2) identify opportunities for interagency and 22 cross-branch collaboration and streamlining of resources at the state and 23 local level, (3) the state-wide expansion and enhancement of a shared 24 data platform, in collaboration with the Compass Youth Collaborative, 25 to provide a streamlined way for community-based providers in the 26 state that serve disconnected youth to access and share individual-level 27 de-identified data to improve collaboration, communication, efficiency, 28 transparency and outcomes over time, and (4) recommendations for 29 improvement to the Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and 30 Workforce Information Network, established pursuant to section 10a-31 57g of the general statutes, to promote data sharing and the retention of 32 data models for purposes of future comparisons. The advisory board 33 shall collaborate with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and 34 the Connecticut Council of Small Towns in the development of the plan.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the advisory board shall submit the plan, and any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

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- Sec. 2. (Effective July 1, 2024) (a) The School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut shall conduct a study and comprehensive asset and capacity mapping for nonprofit organizations in this state to help support the sharing of information and collaboration between such nonprofit organizations and the communities they serve. The School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut may consult with nonprofit organizations and philanthropy associations in the state while conducting such study and mapping.
- (b) Such study and mapping shall (1) assess the capacity of such nonprofit organizations to assist the state in addressing public needs and identifying the availability and strength of assets and gaps or weaknesses of service, (2) provide an effective tool for sharing data,

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documents and communication among and between such nonprofit organizations for the purpose of strengthening such nonprofit organizations' capacity to serve the residents of the state, (3) provide a resource for policy makers to determine gaps in services and capacity and enhance collaboration among different nonprofit organizations working in the same geographic areas and serving the same target population, (4) provide information to policy makers on ways in which to ensure that resources are being invested in areas and populations with the greatest need, and (5) present data by town, county and statewide, as well as by each regional council of government, and include a summary of the available resources, including nonprofit organizations and state agencies, to create a database of the state's nonprofit organizations by target service population, mission and geography.

- (c) The Department of Consumer Protection and the Secretary of the State shall, upon request of the School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut, provide to said school any data necessary to conduct such study and mapping.
- (d) (1) Not later than October 1, 2024, the School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut shall submit a preliminary report on such study and mapping to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
 - (2) Not later than June 30, 2025, the School of Public Policy at The University of Connecticut shall submit a final report on such study and mapping to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such final report shall include recommendations, including a model to enhance collaboration among nonprofit organizations to ensure that state investments are addressing gaps in services and not contributing to duplicative efforts or competition among nonprofit organizations.
- Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

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83 (1) "Education records" has the same meaning as provided in 30 CFR 84 99.3, as amended from time to time;

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- (2) "Personally identifiable information" has the same meaning as provided in 30 CFR 99.3, as amended from time to time;
- (3) "Data sharing agreement" means a contract between a local and regional board of education and a youth service bureau, established pursuant to section 10-19m of the general statutes, or a juvenile review board, that establishes the processes and procedures that govern the sharing and use of education records and personally identifiable information of students who attend a school under the jurisdiction of such local or regional board of education for the purpose of engaging in data analysis of long-term outcomes of students to help improve available programming, instruction and services; and
- (4) "Required student data" means information for each student that includes, but is not limited to, (A) a student's state-assigned student identifier, (B) the first, middle and last name of a student, (C) a student's date of birth, (D) demographic information of a student, including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity and gender, (E) whether a student is (i) a multilingual learner, (ii) a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time, or (iii) receiving special education or related services, (F) a student's grade level, (G) a student's current enrollment status, including active registration, transfer and withdrawal data, (H) a student's date of graduation or anticipated graduation year, (I) a student's attendance records, including whether the student's absences were excused or unexcused, (J) a student's disciplinary history, including, but not limited to, the type, number and nature of disciplinary actions, and (K) any additional student information or data necessary for youth service bureaus to comply with the provisions of section 10-19m of the general statutes.
- (b) Not later than October 1, 2024, each local and regional board of education shall enter into a data sharing agreement with each youth service bureau, established pursuant to section 10-19m of the general

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statutes, or juvenile review board that serves the municipality in which any student enrolled in a school under the jurisdiction of such board resides.

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- (c) Each data sharing agreement entered into under this section shall (1) require the board to provide required student data to the youth service bureau or juvenile review board on a monthly basis, (2) stipulate that any disclosure of the education records and personally identifiable information of a student without the consent of the parent or guardian of such student is permissible under the data sharing agreement under the provisions of 34 CFR 99.31(a)(6), as amended from time to time, provided the purpose of such disclosure is to allow a youth service bureau or juvenile review board to conduct a study to improve instruction and assess the effectiveness of state and federally funded education programs, and (3) allow a youth service bureau or juvenile review board to (A) share the results of any study described in subdivision (2) of this subsection with the local or regional board of education, and (B) utilize the data in such study to help assess long-term outcomes of the students served by the youth service bureau or juvenile review board for the purposes of evaluating such youth service bureau's or juvenile review board's program and service effectiveness, improving instruction and identifying areas for program improvement.
- (d) Any data sharing agreement entered into under this section shall be in accordance with federal and state law, including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC 1232g, as amended from time to time, and 34 CFR 99.1 et seq., as amended from time to time.
- Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than September 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Education shall develop a model data sharing agreement for use by local and regional boards of education, youth service bureaus established pursuant to section 10-19m of the general statutes and juvenile review boards. Such model data sharing agreement shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of this act. The commissioner shall make such model data sharing agreement

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available upon request and on the Internet web site of the Department of Education.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Each local and regional board of education shall include individuals designated by the appropriate youth service bureau, established pursuant to section 10-19m of the general statutes, or juvenile review board for which such board has entered into a data sharing agreement under section 3 of this act, in school level support meetings and on any attendance review team, established pursuant to section 10-198c of the general statutes. As used in this section, "school level support meetings" means a scheduled meeting of school administrators, teachers, social workers, school counselors or other school officials to review and discuss student data related to absenteeism, discipline or mental and behavioral health.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2024) Not later than October 1, 2024, the State Board of Education shall enter into a data sharing agreement, as defined in section 3 of this act, with an association that represents a network of youth service bureaus in the state to provide required student data, as defined in section 3 of this act. Such data sharing agreement shall require the state board to provide such required student data not later than thirty days after the state board receives such required student data from each local or regional board of education.

Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Any student enrolled in a public school located in a priority school district, as defined in section 10-266p of the general statutes, shall be exempt from payment of the lawful charge for state-owned or state-controlled bus public transportation service during the two-hour period before the start of the regular school day and during the four-hour period immediately following the end of the regular school day, provided such person presents to the fare inspector, as defined in section 13b-2 of the general statutes, or the driver of such bus, as applicable, a student identification card issued by the local or regional board of education for the priority school district in which such student is enrolled, indicating such person's status as a student.

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181 Sec. 8. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2024) (a) As used in this section:

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- (1) "Dual credit course" means a concurrent enrollment course or a dual enrollment course for which credit is offered by a local or regional board of education to students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, and for which high school and college credit is awarded;
- (2) "Concurrent enrollment course" means a dual credit course that is delivered at a high school by a certified educator employed by a local or regional board of education; and
- (3) "Dual enrollment course" means a dual credit course that is delivered at a public or independent institution of higher education by a member of the faculty of such institution of higher education.
- (b) Prior to the establishment of a dual credit course, a local or regional board of education and a public or independent institution of higher education shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for the delivery and awarding of credit for such dual credit course. Such memorandum of understanding shall ensure that (1) any such dual credit course aligns with the standards developed by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, (2) the educator employed by a local or regional board of education or faculty member of such institution of higher education that is teaching such dual credit course meets the qualifications set forth by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, (3) the superintendent of schools attests to the institution of higher education that the educator employed by the local or regional board of education meets such qualifications prior to assigning such educator to teach such dual credit course, (4) such educator completes the same professional development training that is commensurate with the professional development that a faculty member at such institution of higher education would complete for such dual credit course offered at such institution, (5) such institution of higher education may conduct an evaluation of such dual credit course or the professional development associated with such dual credit course, (6) students enrolled in such dual credit course complete an

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- 213 orientation program offered by such institution of higher education, and
- 214 (7) any student enrolled in such dual credit course meets the
- 215 prerequisites for such dual credit course.
- Sec. 9. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10-223e of the
- 217 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 218 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):
- 219 (1) "Accountability index" means the score resulting from multiple
- 220 student, school or district-level measures, as weighted by the
- Department of Education, that (A) shall include the performance index
- score and high school graduation rates, including the availability of a
- 223 <u>credit recovery program and the number of students who earn credit</u>
- and graduate as a result of participation in a credit recovery program,
- and (B) may include, but need not be limited to, academic growth over
- 226 time, attendance and chronic absenteeism, postsecondary education
- and career readiness, enrollment in and graduation from institutions of
- 228 higher education and postsecondary education programs, civics and
- arts education and physical fitness.
- Sec. 10. Section 10-74j of the general statutes is repealed and the
- following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):
- (a) As used in this section, "alternative education" means a school or
- 233 program maintained and operated by a local or regional board of
- 234 education that is offered to students in a nontraditional educational
- setting and addresses the social, emotional, behavioral and academic
- 236 needs of such students.
- 237 (b) A local or regional board of education may provide alternative
- education to students, in accordance with guidelines established by the
- 239 State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-74k. A local or regional
- 240 board of education may use space in an existing school or establish a
- 241 new school for the purposes of providing alternative education to
- students. Alternative education shall be provided in accordance with
- 243 the provisions of sections 10-15 and 10-16 and shall be subject to all
- 244 federal and state laws governing public schools.

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(c) Each local and regional board of education shall make available on its Internet web site information relating to alternative education offered under this section, including, but not limited to, the purpose, location, contact information, staff directory and enrollment criteria for such alternative education.

- (d) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year thereafter, any local or regional board of education that includes a credit recovery program as part of its alternative education provided under this section shall permit any student enrolled in a traditional school program offered by such board and who is at risk of not graduating to enroll in such credit recovery program while still enrolled in the traditional school program.
- Sec. 11. Section 4-124*ll* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):
- (a) On or before July 1, 2023, the Chief Workforce Officer, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, the executive director of the Technical Education and Career System and the Labor Commissioner, shall develop a model student work release policy. Not later than July 1, 2023, the Chief Workforce Officer shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, regarding such model student work release policy to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, commerce and labor.
 - (b) The Chief Workforce Officer, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, may update the model student work release policy developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section as needed. The Chief Workforce Officer shall notify each local and regional board of education of such updated model student work release policy.
 - (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall adopt the model student work release policy developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or the most recent updated model student work release

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- policy developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.
- Sec. 12. Section 10-66u of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

280 For the fiscal [years] year ending June 30, 2023, and [June 30, 2024] 281 each fiscal year thereafter, each regional educational service center shall 282 [hire] employ an individual to serve as the regional trauma coordinator 283 for such center. Such individual shall have significant trauma-informed 284 experience and have completed specific professional training focused on trauma. The regional trauma coordinator for each such center shall 285 286 be responsible for: (1) Developing a trauma-informed care training 287 program in accordance with the provisions of section 10-66v, (2) 288 implementing the trauma-informed care training program, (3) 289 providing technical assistance to the local and regional boards of 290 education that are members of the regional educational service center in 291 implementing the trauma-informed care training program, (4) training 292 school mental health specialists, as defined in section 12 of public act 22-293 47, to be the trainers under the trauma-informed care training program, 294 and (5) ensuring that such trainers are properly training teachers, 295 administrators, school staff and coaches under the trauma-informed 296 care training program.

- Sec. 13. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, or the executive director's designee, may convene a working group to conduct a review of and make recommendations regarding the high school graduation requirements, described in section 10-221a of the general statutes, for the purpose of identifying those requirements that have the effect of limiting or restricting the provision of instruction or services to students.
- 304 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

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- 305 (1) A representative from each of the following organizations, 306 designated by each such organization:
 - (A) The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;

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308	(B) The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;		
309	(C) The Connecticut PTA;		
310	(D) The American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;		
311	(E) The Connecticut Education Association;		
312	(F) The Connecticut Association of Schools;		
313	(G) The Connecticut Federation of School Administrators;		
314	(H) The Connecticut School Counselor Association; and		
315 316	(I) The Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance;		
317 318 319 320	(2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, or the chairpersons' and ranking members designees; and		
321	(3) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.		
322 323 324	(c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.		
325 326 327 328 329	(d) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, or the executive director's designee, shall serve as the chairperson of the working group. The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.		
330 331 332 333	(e) The working group may provide an opportunity for public comment or seek input from students, parents, educators, boards of education and other education stakeholders while conducting the review and developing its recommendations under this section		

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- (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a report on its review of such graduation requirements and its recommendations for revisions to such graduation requirements to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or July 1, 2026, whichever is later.
- Sec. 14. (Effective July 1, 2024) (a) The president of the Connecticut 341 342 Education Association, or the president's designee, and the president of 343 the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, or the president's 344 designee, may jointly convene a working group to conduct a review of 345 (1) high school grading policies in use by local and regional boards of 346 education, (2) the accountability index, as defined in section 10-223e of 347 the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (3) the information and 348 data selected by the Department of Education in the calculation of 349 accountability index scores for school districts.
- 350 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:
- 351 (1) A representative from each of the following organizations, 352 designated by each such organization:
- 353 (A) The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;
- 354 (B) The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;
- 355 (C) The Connecticut PTA;

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- 356 (D) The American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;
- 357 (E) The Connecticut Education Association;
- 358 (F) The Connecticut Association of Schools;
- 359 (G) The Connecticut Federation of School Administrators;
- 360 (H) The Connecticut School Counselor Association; and

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- 361 (I) The Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, 362 Recreation and Dance;
- (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, or the chairpersons' and ranking members' designees; and
 - (3) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

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- 368 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not 369 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy 370 shall be filled by the appointing authority.
 - (d) The president of the Connecticut Education Association, or the president's designee, and the president of the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, or the president's designee, shall serve as the cochairpersons of the working group. The cochairpersons shall jointly schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.
 - (e) The working group may provide an opportunity for public comment or seek input from students, parents, educators, boards of education and other education stakeholders while conducting the review and developing its recommendations under this section.
- 381 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a 382 report on its review of such mandates and its recommendations for the 383 repeal of or amendment to any state mandates and development of a 384 biennial review process to the joint standing committee of the General 385 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in 386 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. 387 The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such 388 report or July 1, 2026, whichever is later.
- Sec. 15. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to develop recommendations for the creation and administration of a state-

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391 wide program for the delivery of bereavement and grief counseling 392 services to children and families at no cost to participants. The task force 393 shall make recommendations for (1) the appropriate agency or agencies 394 to administer such program, (2) the scope of services offered by such 395 program, including, but not limited to, the provision of culturally 396 informed services and services to marginalized communities, (3) the 397 role that existing bereavement and grief counseling services programs 398 and school-based health centers should have in the delivery of services 399 under such program, (4) the delivery of services by such program in 400 areas of the state where such services do not currently exist or are not 401 sufficient, and the resources that will be needed to deliver services to 402 such areas, (5) long-term funding sources for such program, and (6) any 403 additional considerations identified by the task force.

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

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- (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of a bereavement and grief counseling services program that serves children and families;
- 408 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who 409 shall be a representative of a state-wide association of school-based 410 health centers;
- 411 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of 412 Representatives, who shall be a representative of a state-wide 413 association of school counselors;
- 414 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be 415 a representative of the state chapter of a national nonprofit organization 416 that works to improve the lives of children and families;
- (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of a child study center affiliated with a medical school in the state;
- 420 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be

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- a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383 of the general statutes,
- who has expertise in treating bereaved children;
- 423 (7) One appointed jointly by the House chairperson and the House
- 424 ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General
- 425 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, who has
- 426 experience with grief and bereavement;
- 427 (8) One appointed jointly by the Senate chairperson and the Senate
- 428 ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General
- 429 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, who has
- 430 experience with grief and bereavement;
- 431 (9) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
- 432 designee;
- 433 (10) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
- 434 commissioner's designee;
- 435 (11) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
- 436 the commissioner's designee;
- 437 (12) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
- 438 and
- 439 (13) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
- Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.
- 441 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
- 442 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) or (8) of subsection (b) of this section may be a
- 443 member of the General Assembly.
- (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
- 445 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
- be filled by the appointing authority.
- (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
- tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from

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among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

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

(g) Not later than July 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it 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	from passage	New section	
Sec. 2	July 1, 2024	New section	
Sec. 3	July 1, 2024	New section	
Sec. 4	July 1, 2024	New section	
Sec. 5	July 1, 2024	New section	
Sec. 6	July 1, 2024	New section	
Sec. 7	July 1, 2024	New section	
Sec. 8	July 1, 2024	New section	
Sec. 9	July 1, 2024	10-223e(a)(1)	
Sec. 10	July 1, 2024	10-74j	
Sec. 11	July 1, 2024	4-12411	
Sec. 12	July 1, 2024	10-66u	
Sec. 13	July 1, 2024	New section	
Sec. 14	July 1, 2024	New section	
Sec. 15	from passage	New section	

ED Joint Favorable Subst.

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