



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 327

LCO No. 2194



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF HATE SPEECH ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND ACHIEVEMENT.

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 study the effects of hate speech on children. Such study shall include,
3 but need not be limited to, the effects of such speech on the mental and
4 physical health and educational achievement of children. For the
5 purposes of this section, "hate speech" means any form of expression
6 through which the speaker intends to vilify, humiliate or incite hatred
7 against a group or class of persons on the basis of race, religion, skin
8 color, sexual identity, gender identity, ethnicity, disability or national
9 origin.

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

11 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
12 who shall be a representative of an organization that works to improve
13 the behavioral health and well-being of children;

14 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who

15 shall be a representative of a state chapter of a national association of
16 providers of pediatric care;

17 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
18 Representatives, who shall be a representative of an organization that
19 works to eliminate discrimination based on race;

20 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
21 a representative of an organization that works to eliminate
22 discrimination based on religion;

23 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
24 Representatives, who shall be a representative of an organization that
25 works to eliminate discrimination based on sexual and gender identity;

26 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
27 a representative of an organization that works to eliminate
28 discrimination based on disability status;

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

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

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

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

36 (11) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's
37 designee; and

38 (12) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
39 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.

40 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
41 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
42 of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

54 (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report
55 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
56 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
57 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
58 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or
59 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

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a task force to study the effects of hate speech on children.

[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.]