



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 186**

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6841

*House of Representatives, March 24, 2025*

The Committee on Children reported through REP. PARIS of the 145th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY METHODS AND PROGRAMS FOR REDUCING RATES OF POVERTY.**

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 working
- 2 group to (1) study methods and programs for reducing rates of poverty
- 3 among families in the state, including, but not limited to, universal basic
- 4 income and other cash assistance programs, educational and
- 5 employment training programs and programs to assist in paying for
- 6 and reducing costs associated with child care services, (2) analyze the
- 7 efficacy of such methods and programs and provide recommendations
- 8 for the implementation of such methods and programs on a state-wide
- 9 basis, (3) study systemic barriers to alleviating poverty, including, but
- 10 not limited to, housing policies, transportation access, health care access,
- 11 child care access and racial disparities, (4) study the ways in which
- 12 inflation and regional cost differences impact rates of poverty across the
- 13 state, (5) develop a method for tracking improvements in income, home
- 14 ownership, job retention and other markers of economic mobility in

15 areas of the state with high rates of poverty, (6) study the availability of  
16 educational, employment and child care programs in areas of the state  
17 with high rates of poverty and analyze gaps in such availability to  
18 determine where and how to meet the need for such programs, (7)  
19 identify any policies and programs, including, but not limited to,  
20 programs described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, that may be  
21 implemented in the short-term to reduce rates of poverty and any  
22 structural reforms necessary to reduce rates of poverty into the future,  
23 (8) identify funding sources for programs that may reduce rates of  
24 poverty, including, but not limited to, state budget allocations, federal  
25 grants and philanthropic support, and (9) identify ways in which state  
26 agencies may collaborate to create efficiencies in the delivery of  
27 programs and services to reduce rates of poverty.

28 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

29 (1) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's  
30 designee;

31 (2) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the  
32 commissioner's designee;

33 (3) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's  
34 designee;

35 (4) The Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the  
36 commissioner's designee;

37 (5) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's  
38 designee;

39 (6) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

40 (7) The chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General  
41 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human  
42 services and appropriations, or the chairpersons' designees; and

43 (8) Not more than ten members jointly appointed by the

44 cochairpersons of the working group, each of whom shall (A) have  
45 expertise in nonprofit administration, business administration,  
46 economics, education, housing, child welfare, child care, labor,  
47 workforce development or social services administration, or (B) be a  
48 representative of a faith-based or municipal organization or entity.

49 (c) Any member of the working group described or appointed under  
50 subdivision (7) or (8) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
51 of the General Assembly.

52 (d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not  
53 later than thirty days after the effective date of this session. Any vacancy  
54 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

55 (e) The House chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the  
56 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children and  
57 human services, or the chairpersons' designees, shall serve as  
58 cochairpersons of the working group. Such cochairpersons shall  
59 schedule each meeting of the working group, the first of which shall be  
60 held not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section.

61 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
62 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children  
63 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

64 (g) Not later than June 1, 2026, the cochairpersons shall submit a  
65 preliminary report on the findings and recommendations of the  
66 working group to the joint standing committees of the General  
67 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human  
68 services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in  
69 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

70 (h) Not later than July 1, 2026, the cochairpersons shall hold a public  
71 forum, at which the cochairpersons shall present the preliminary report  
72 submitted pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and solicit public  
73 comment.

74 (i) Not later than June 1, 2027, the cochairpersons shall submit a final

75 report on the findings and recommendations of the working group to  
76 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
77 cognizance of matters relating to children, human services and  
78 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in accordance with the  
79 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group  
80 shall terminate on the date the cochairpersons submit such final report  
81 or June 1, 2027, 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 Legislative Commissioners:**

In Subsecs. (e) and (f), "task force" was changed to "working group" for accuracy, in Subsec. (h), "preliminary" was inserted before "report" for clarity and the reference to Subsec. (c) was changed to Subsec. (g) for accuracy and in Subsec. (i), "final" was inserted before both instances of "report" for clarity.

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which establishes a working group to research poverty reduction strategies, does not result in a fiscal impact to the state. Workload adjustments can be managed within the current staffing levels of the specified state agencies listed in the bill.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 6841**

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METHODS AND PROGRAMS FOR REDUCING RATES OF  
POVERTY.***

**SUMMARY**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 4 (03/06/2025)