



**Senate Bill No. 156**

**Special Act No. 26-5**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF INFANTS.**

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to study the voluntary surrender of infants in the state pursuant to section 17a-58 of the general statutes. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, an analysis of the (1) provisions of sections 17a-57 to 17a-60, inclusive, of the general statutes and section 17a-61 of the general statutes, (2) policies and procedures of the Department of Children and Families concerning voluntarily surrendered infants, and (3) policies and procedures of hospitals operating emergency rooms concerning the voluntary surrender of infants, with an emphasis on the ways in which such provisions, policies and procedures may create or perpetuate racial, ethnic, health, economic and socioeconomic disparities among parents who engage in such voluntary surrender.

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

(1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall have expertise in public health policy;

(2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall have expertise in child welfare policy;

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(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall have expertise in the application of social equity principles to public policy;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a hospital employee designated to take physical custody of an infant pursuant to section 17a-57 of the general statutes;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a parent or lawful agent of a parent who voluntarily surrendered an infant;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be an attorney with experience representing parents in termination of parental rights cases following the voluntary surrender of such parents' infants;

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

(8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee;

(9) The Chief Public Defender, or the Chief Public Defender's designee; and

(10) A representative of a state-wide association of hospitals, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the task force.

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

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

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(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 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 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than May 1, 2027, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to 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 May 1, 2027, whichever is later.

Governor's Action:  
Approved May 14, 2026