



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 5163***

LCO No. 589



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY METHODS AND PROGRAMS FOR IMPROVING AFFORDABILITY FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS.***

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 (1) study methods and programs for improving the affordability of  
3 the state for children, families and young professionals, including, but  
4 not limited to, cash assistance programs, educational and employment  
5 training programs and programs to assist families in paying for and  
6 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 that prevent improvements to  
10 affordability, including, but not limited to, housing policies,  
11 transportation access, health care access, child care access and racial  
12 disparities, (4) study the ways in which inflation and regional cost  
13 differences impact affordability across the state, (5) develop a method  
14 for tracking improvements in income, home ownership, job retention  
15 and other markers of economic mobility in areas of the state with low

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
42 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
43 relating to children, human services and appropriations and the budgets  
44 of state agencies, or the chairpersons' and ranking members' designees;

45 and

46 (8) Not more than ten members jointly appointed by the  
47 cochairpersons of the task force, each of whom shall (A) have expertise  
48 in nonprofit administration, business administration, economics,  
49 education, housing, child welfare, child care, labor, workforce  
50 development or social services administration, or (B) be a representative  
51 of a faith-based or municipal organization or entity.

52 (c) Any member of the task force described or appointed under  
53 subdivision (7) or (8) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
54 of the General Assembly.

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

58 (e) The House chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the  
59 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children and  
60 appropriations, or the chairpersons' designees, shall serve as  
61 cochairpersons of the task force. Such cochairpersons shall schedule  
62 each meeting of the task force, the first of which shall be held not later  
63 than thirty days after the effective date of this section.

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

67 (g) Not later than June 1, 2027, the cochairpersons shall submit a  
68 preliminary report on the findings and recommendations of the task  
69 force to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
70 cognizance of matters relating to children, human services and  
71 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in accordance with the  
72 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

73 (h) Not later than July 1, 2027, the cochairpersons shall hold a public

74 forum, at which the cochairpersons shall present the preliminary report  
75 submitted pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and solicit public  
76 comment.

77 (i) Not later than June 1, 2028, the cochairpersons shall submit a final  
78 report on the findings and recommendations of the task force to the joint  
79 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
80 matters relating to children, human services and appropriations and the  
81 budgets of state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section  
82 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date  
83 the cochairpersons submit such final report or June 1, 2028, whichever  
84 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 methods and programs for improving affordability for children, families and young professionals.

*[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.]*