



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Substitute Bill No. 5163**



**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, or the  
44 chairpersons' and ranking members' designees; and

45 (8) Not more than ten members jointly appointed by the  
46 cochairpersons of the task force, each of whom shall (A) have expertise  
47 in nonprofit administration, business administration, economics,  
48 education, housing, child welfare, child care, labor, workforce

49 development or social services administration, or (B) be a representative  
50 of a faith-based or municipal organization or entity.

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

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

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

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

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

72 (h) Not later than July 1, 2027, the cochairpersons shall hold a public  
73 forum, at which the cochairpersons shall present the preliminary report  
74 submitted pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and solicit public  
75 comment.

76 (i) Not later than June 1, 2028, the cochairpersons shall submit a final  
77 report on the findings and recommendations of the task force to the joint  
78 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of

79 matters relating to children, human services and appropriations, in  
80 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.  
81 The task force shall terminate on the date the cochairpersons submit  
82 such final report or June 1, 2028, 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. (b)(7), (g) and (i), "appropriations and the budgets of state agencies" was changed to "appropriations" for clarity.

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*