House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 9

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5163

House of Representatives, March 10, 2026

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 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:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to (1) study methods and programs for improving the affordability of the state for children, families and young professionals, including, but not limited to, cash assistance programs, educational and employment training programs and programs to assist families in paying for and reducing costs associated with child care services, (2) analyze the efficacy of such methods and programs and provide recommendations for the implementation of such methods and programs on a state-wide basis, (3) study systemic barriers that prevent improvements to affordability, including, but not limited to, housing policies, transportation access, health care access, child care access and racial disparities, (4) study the ways in which inflation and regional cost differences impact affordability across the state, (5) develop a method for tracking improvements in income, home ownership, job retention

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Any member of the task force described or appointed under subdivision (7) or (8) 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.

(e) The House chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children and appropriations, or the chairpersons' designees, shall serve as cochairpersons of the task force. Such cochairpersons shall schedule each meeting of the task force, the first of which shall be held not later than thirty 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 June 1, 2027, the cochairpersons shall submit a preliminary report on the findings and recommendations of the task force to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human services and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

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

(i) Not later than June 1, 2028, the cochairpersons shall submit a final report on the findings and recommendations of the task force to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human services and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date the cochairpersons submit 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	*from passage*	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*

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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a task force to study the state's affordability for children, families, and young professionals through the analysis of cash assistance, childcare, and systemic barriers. There is no fiscal impact because the participating agencies already possess the necessary expertise to fulfill these requirements.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5163

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SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable
Yea 17 Nay 0 (02/24/2026)