

2015 Minnesota Session Laws

CHAPTER 71--S.F.No. 1458

Sec. 125. LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE; CHILD PROTECTION. --

-- (a) A legislative task force is created to: --

-- (1) review the efforts being made to implement the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children, including a review of the roles and functions of the Office of Ombudsperson for Families; --

-- (2) expand the efforts into related areas of the child welfare system; --

-- (3) work with the commissioner of human services and community partners to establish and evaluate child protection grants to address disparities in child welfare pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.28; and --

-- (4) identify additional areas within the child welfare system that need to be addressed by the legislature. --

-- (b) Members of the legislative task force shall include: --

-- (1) the four legislators who served as members of the Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children; --

-- (2) two members from the house of representatives appointed by the speaker, one from the majority party and one from the minority party; and --

-- (3) two members from the senate appointed by the majority leader, one from the majority party and one from the minority party. --

-- The speaker and the majority leader shall each appoint a chair and vice-chair from the membership of the task force. The gavel shall rotate after each meeting, and the house of representatives shall assume the leadership of the task force first. --

-- (c) The task force may provide oversight and monitoring of: --

-- (1) the efforts by the Department of Human Services, counties, and tribes to implement laws related to child protection; --

-- (2) efforts by the Department of Human Services, counties, and tribes to implement the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children; --

-- (3) efforts by agencies, including but not limited to the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, the Minnesota Department of Corrections, and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, to work with the Department of Human Services to assure safety and well-being for children at risk of harm or children in the child welfare system; and --

– (4) efforts by the Department of Human Services, other agencies, counties, and tribes to implement best practices to ensure every child is protected from maltreatment and neglect and to ensure every child has the opportunity for healthy development. –

– (d) The task force, in cooperation with the commissioner of human services, shall issue a report to the legislature and governor February 1, 2016. The report must contain information on the progress toward implementation of changes to the child protection system, recommendations for additional legislative changes and procedures affecting child protection and child welfare, and funding needs to implement recommended changes. –

– (e) The task force shall convene upon the effective date of this section and shall continue until the last day of the 2016 legislative session. –

– **EFFECTIVE DATE.** –

– This section is effective the day following final enactment. –