

HOUSE No. 4305

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, July 14, 2014.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Bill creating a task force to protect Massachusetts children against child sexual abuse (House, No. 3803), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 4305).

For the committee,

BRIAN S. DEMPSEY.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act creating a task force to protect Massachusetts children against child sexual abuse.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. There shall be established a task force on child sexual abuse prevention,
2 hereinafter referred to as the task force. The task force shall be co-chaired by the child advocate
3 and the executive director of the Children’s Trust Fund and shall include: the chairs of the joint
4 committee on children, families and persons with disabilities; the commissioner of public health,
5 or a designee; the commissioner of early education and care, or a designee; the commissioner of
6 children and families, or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts office for victim
7 assistance, or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts District Attorneys
8 Association, or a designee; and representatives from each of the following child and youth
9 serving provider and advocacy organizations as appointed by the governor: the Alliance of
10 Massachusetts YMCAs, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the
11 Massachusetts Children's Alliance, Massachusetts Citizens for Children, the Children's League
12 of Massachusetts, the Mass Mentoring Partnership, the Girl Scouts, the MA Alliance of Boys
13 and Girls Clubs, Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, the
14 Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership, and the Massachusetts Adolescent Sex Offender
15 Coalition. The governor may appoint additional representatives from child serving agencies, law
16 enforcement, religious organizations and others as necessary to fulfill the purpose of the task
17 force.

18 The task force shall develop guidelines and tools for the development of sexual abuse
19 prevention and intervention plans by child and youth serving organizations. The task force shall
20 recommend policies and procedures for implementation and oversight of the guidelines as well
21 as strategies for incentivizing child and youth serving organizations to develop and implement
22 sexual abuse prevention and intervention plans. The task force shall also develop a 5 year plan
23 for using community education and other strategies for increasing public awareness about child
24 sexual abuse including how to recognize signs, minimize risk and act on suspicions or
25 disclosures.

26 The task force shall submit its recommendations to the governor, the clerks of the house
27 of representatives and senate and the chairs of the joint committee on children, families and
28 persons with disabilities on or before December 31, 2014.