

HOUSE BILL No. 2019

By 2016 Special Committee on Foster Care Adequacy

1-6

1 AN ACT establishing the foster care oversight task force.

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3 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

4 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the foster care oversight
5 task force. The task force shall: Review the level of oversight and
6 supervision by the department for children and families over foster care
7 contractors; evaluate whether a working group consisting of attorneys in
8 the area of family law, judges, foster parents and parents with reintegrated
9 children would aid in addressing foster care concerns; study the proper
10 selection of foster care parents and the qualifications of foster parents;
11 review the duties of those individuals responsible for foster children, the
12 safe families act, the connection between the department for children and
13 families and foster care contractors and other such areas of concern
14 regarding foster care. The department for children and families shall, on
15 request, provide data and information on foster care programs, including,
16 but not limited to:

- 17 (1) The number of children in foster care;
- 18 (2) the number of children in foster care who are outside the county
19 of original residence;
- 20 (3) the average length of stay in foster care before reintegration with
21 the child's parents or placement in a permanent home;
- 22 (4) foster home licensing and inspection data, including a list of
23 prohibitive offenses for foster home licensure;
- 24 (5) the annual numbers and types of cases of substantiated and
25 documented maltreatment of foster children;
- 26 (6) foster home alcohol and tobacco use rules and regulations;
- 27 (7) the latest quarterly reports from foster care contractors;
- 28 (8) an annual crossover youth report examining the number of youth
29 exiting home placement who are subsequently adjudicated as juvenile
30 offenders;
- 31 (9) the number and the types of arrests or convictions, or both, of
32 foster parents;
- 33 (10) the number of foster homes by family structure;
- 34 (11) the number of foster homes in which alcohol or tobacco, or both,
35 are used;
- 36 (12) the highest, lowest and average number of days between a child's

1 removal from the parental home and adjudication; and

2 (13) information on the number of days of school missed per year by
3 foster care children, by grade, for grades one through 12.

4 (b) The task force shall consist of 17 members appointed as follows:

5 (1) Two members of the house committee on children and seniors
6 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

7 (2) one member of the house committee on children and seniors
8 appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;

9 (3) two members of the senate committee on public health and
10 welfare appointed by the president of the senate;

11 (4) one member of the senate committee on public health and welfare
12 appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

13 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the
14 speaker of the house of representatives;

15 (6) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
16 minority leader of the house of representatives;

17 (7) two members of the senate appointed by the president of the
18 senate;

19 (8) one member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the
20 senate; and

21 (9) five members appointed by the governor, to serve at the pleasure
22 of the governor, as follows:

23 (A) An attorney who practices family law;

24 (B) a district court judge who maintains a family law docket;

25 (C) a member of CASA;

26 (D) a guardian ad litem; and

27 (E) a member of the Kansas children service league.

28 (c) (1) Legislative members shall be appointed for terms coinciding
29 with the legislative terms for which such legislative members are elected or
30 appointed.

31 (2) Members appointed by the governor shall be appointed for a term
32 of three years.

33 (3) All members appointed to fill vacancies in the membership of the
34 task force and all members appointed to succeed members appointed to
35 membership on the task force shall be appointed in the manner provided
36 for the original appointment of the member succeeded.

37 (d) The members originally appointed as members of the task force
38 shall meet, upon the call of an appointed member designated by the
39 speaker of the house of representatives as the first chairperson, within 30
40 days of the effective date of this act. The vice-chairperson of the task force
41 shall be elected by a quorum of the task force. Annually thereafter, the
42 chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be elected by a quorum of the task
43 force members. On and after the effective date of this act, the task force

1 shall meet at least six times a year on the call of the chairperson.
2 Additional meetings may be held on call of the chairperson when urgent
3 circumstances exist that require such meetings. Nine members of the task
4 force shall constitute a quorum.

5 (e) At the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, the task
6 force shall submit to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house
7 of representatives, the house committee on children and seniors and the
8 senate committee on public health and welfare a written report on the
9 findings and recommendations of the task force for the previous year.

10 (f) If approved by the legislative coordinating council, members of
11 the task force attending meetings authorized by the task force shall receive
12 amounts provided for by K.S.A. 75-3223(e), and amendments thereto.

13 (g) In accordance with K.S.A. 46-1204, and amendments thereto, the
14 legislative coordinating council may provide for such legislative and
15 professional services as may be requested by the task force.

16 (h) The provisions of this section shall expire on January 1, 2020.

17 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
18 publication in the statute book.