

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1894

5 By: Representative Barker
6 By: Senator B. Davis
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE TO END
10 CHILD ABUSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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14 TO CREATE THE BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE TO
15 END CHILD ABUSE.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Blue Ribbon Task Force
21 to End Child Abuse – Creation – Membership – Duties.

22 (a) There is created the Blue Ribbon Task Force To End Child Abuse.

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

24 (1) One (1) member of the Arkansas Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic
25 Violence Commission, appointed by the Governor;

26 (2) One (1) school nurse, appointed by the Governor;

27 (3) One (1) school counselor, appointed by the Governor;

28 (4) One (1) employee of the Division of Children and Family
29 Services, appointed by the Governor;

30 (5) One (1) pediatrician, appointed by the Governor;

31 (6) One (1) advocate for child abuse prevention, appointed by
32 the Governor;

33 (7) One (1) owner of a child care center, appointed by the
34 Governor;

35 (8) One (1) representative of the home school community,
36 appointed by the Governor;



1 (9) One (1) member appointed by the Governor from the state at
2 large to assist in carrying out the purpose of the task force;

3 (10) Four (4) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives from the state at large to assist in carrying out the purpose
5 of the task force;

6 (11) Four (4) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of
7 the Senate from the state at large to assist in carrying out the purpose of
8 the task force;

9 (12) The Chair of the House Committee on Aging, Children and
10 Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs or his or her designee; and

11 (13) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Children and
12 Youth or his or her designee.

13 (c) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled
14 by the same process as the original appointment.

15 (d)(1) Members of the task force shall not be compensated for their
16 service on the task force.

17 (2)(A) The Governor shall designate a member of the task force
18 to serve as the chair.

19 (B) The chair shall call the first meeting of the task
20 force within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this act.

21 (3)(A) The task force may meet using a digital platform.

22 (B) The task force shall meet at least six (6) times, but
23 the task force may hold additional meetings at the call of the chair.

24 (4) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for
25 conducting the business of the task force.

26 (5)(A) Ten (10) members of the task force shall constitute a
27 quorum for transacting business of the task force.

28 (B) An affirmative vote of a majority of the members
29 present shall be required for the passage of a motion or other task force
30 action.

31 (6) The commission shall provide staff, meeting space, and
32 materials for the task force.

33 (e)(1) The purpose of the task force is to take a systematic and
34 holistic approach to eliminating child abuse in the state.

35 (2) To achieve the purpose stated in subdivision (e)(1) of this
36 section, the task force shall:

1 (A) Study child abuse data in the state and the state's
2 options for adopting or revising policies, procedures, programs, and services
3 to assist in identifying and eliminating child abuse;

4 (B) Recommend programs and services aimed at identifying
5 and eliminating child abuse in the state; and

6 (C) Develop policy recommendations, systematic
7 recommendations, and recommendations regarding educational materials to help
8 the state:

9 (i) Identify children who are being abused; and

10 (ii) Eliminate child abuse in the state.

11 (f) On or before July 1, 2022, the task force shall file with the
12 House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military
13 Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth a final
14 written report of the task force's activities, findings, and recommendations.

15 (g) The task force shall expire on December 31, 2022.

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18 **APPROVED: 4/26/21**
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