

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

As Engrossed: S3/17/05

A Bill

SENATE BILL 1030

4
5 By: Senator Malone
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK
10 FORCE ON ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN; TO
11 PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS; TO
12 DESCRIBE ITS MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES; AND
13 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15 THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
16 ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN.
17
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 10, Chapter 3 is amended to add an
23 additional subchapter to read as follows:

24 10-3-2201. Title.

25 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas
26 Legislative Task Force on Abused and Neglected Children Act".
27

28 10-3-2202. Creation.

29 (a) There is created the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Abused and
30 Neglected Children.

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

32 (1) The Governor or the Governor's designee;

33 (2) A member of the House Interim Committee on Public Health,
34 Welfare, and Labor to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
35 Representatives;

36 (3) A member of the Senate Interim Committee on Public Health,



1 Welfare, and Labor to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
2 Senate;

3 (4) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Children and
4 Youth or the chair's designee;

5 (5) The Chair of the House Committee on Aging, Children and
6 Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs or the chair's designee;

7 (6) The Director of the Division of Children and Family Services
8 of the Department of Human Services or the director's designee;

9 (7) The Director of the Division of Mental Health Services of
10 the Department of Human Services or the director's designee;

11 (8) The Director of the Division of Youth Services of the
12 Department of Human Services or the director's designee;

13 (9) The Director of the Division of Child Care and Early
14 Childhood Education of the Department of Human Services or the director's
15 designee;

16 (10) The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts or
17 the director's designee;

18 (11) The Chair of the Arkansas Coalition for Juvenile Justice or
19 the chair's designee;

20 (12) A sheriff to be appointed by the President of the Arkansas
21 Sheriffs' Association;

22 (13) The Director of the Department of Arkansas State Police or
23 the director's designee;

24 (14) The Chair of the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
25 Board or the chair's designee;

26 (15) One (1) member of the Arkansas Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic
27 Violence Commission to be appointed by the Chancellor of the University of
28 Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

29 (16) A public defender who regularly appears in the juvenile
30 division of a circuit court in the State of Arkansas to be appointed by the
31 Director of the Arkansas Public Defender Commission;

32 (17) A prosecutor who regularly appears in the juvenile division
33 of a circuit court in the State of Arkansas appointed by the Prosecutor
34 Coordinator;

35 (18) An attorney ad litem appointed by the Director of the
36 Administrative Office of the Courts;

1 (19) A physician with special knowledge and experience in the
2 treatment of children who have been abused or neglected;

3 (20) The Chief of Staff of Arkansas Children's Hospital or his
4 or her designee;

5 (21) Two (2) members to be appointed by the President Pro
6 Tempore of the Senate with specialized knowledge, skills, or experience in
7 the area of child welfare or the prevention of child abuse and neglect;

8 (22) Two (2) members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House
9 of Representatives with specialized knowledge, skills, or experience in the
10 area of child welfare or the prevention of child abuse and neglect;

11 (23) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Code Revision
12 Commission or the director's designee; and

13 (24) The Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research or the
14 director's designee.

15 (c)(1) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth
16 or the chair's designee shall call the first meeting within thirty (30) days
17 of the effective date of this act and shall serve as chair at the first
18 meeting.

19 (2) At the first meeting, the members of the task force shall
20 elect from its membership a chair and other officers as needed for the
21 transaction of its business.

22 (3)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski
23 County at the State Capitol.

24 (B) Meetings shall be held at least one (1) time every
25 three (3) months but may occur more often at the call of the chair.

26 (d) If any vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be
27 filled by the same process as the original appointment.

28 (e) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for conducting
29 its business.

30 (f) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but
31 may receive expense reimbursement according to § 25-16-902.

32 (g) A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a
33 quorum for transacting any business of the task force.

34 (h) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the
35 task force.

36

1 10-3-2203. Duties.

2 The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Abused and Neglected Children
3 shall:

4 (1) Examine how the State of Arkansas responds to child abuse
5 and neglect with a focus on the following main areas using a child-centered
6 approach:

7 (A) Reporting, investigating, and multidisciplinary
8 cooperation;

9 (B) Legal advocacy for children in courts;

10 (C) Foster care and adoption;

11 (D) Training and workforce needs;

12 (E) Criminal justice and public safety;

13 (F) Neglect and family support; and

14 (G) Accountability;

15 (2) Determine the best practices to prevent child abuse and
16 neglect and to improve child welfare by conducting national research or by
17 using other methods;

18 (3) Recommend more efficient methods of distributing and
19 spending limited public moneys to prevent child abuse and neglect and to
20 improve child welfare;

21 (4) Recommend how to obtain more federal funds to prevent child
22 abuse and neglect and to improve child welfare;

23 (5) Recommend to the General Assembly specific changes to the
24 law that will improve child safety and welfare in the State of Arkansas in
25 the form of bill drafts; and

26 (6) Provide the legislature with a written explanation of the
27 recommended legislative changes.

28
29 /s/ Malone
30
31
32
33
34
35
36