

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1421

5 By: Representatives Sumpter, D. Creekmore
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK
10 FORCE FOR REVIEW OF SEX OFFENSES INVOLVING
11 MINORS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS
12 MEMBERS; TO DESCRIBE ITS MISSION AND
13 RESPONSIBILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK
16 FORCE FOR REVIEW OF SEX OFFENSES
17 INVOLVING MINORS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE
18 APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS; AND TO
19 DESCRIBE ITS MISSION AND
20 RESPONSIBILITIES.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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SECTION 1. Creation.

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27 (a) There is created the Arkansas Legislative Task Force for Review of
28 Sex Offenses Involving Minors.

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

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

31 (2) The Chair of the House Interim Committee on Judiciary or the
32 chair's designee;

33 (3) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Judiciary or
34 the chair's designee;

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



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

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

5 (7) The Director of the Division of Behavioral Health of the
 6 Department of Health and Human Services or the director's designee;

7 (8) The Director of the Division of Youth Services of the
 8 Department of Health and Human Services or the director's designee;

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

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

13 (11) A sheriff to be appointed by the President of the Arkansas
 14 Sheriffs' Association;

15 (12) The Director of the Department of Arkansas State Police or
 16 the director's designee;

17 (13) The Chair of the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
 18 Board or the chair's designee;

19 (14) One (1) member of the Arkansas Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic
 20 Violence Commission to be appointed by the Chancellor of the University of
 21 Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

22 (15) A public defender who regularly appears in a circuit court
 23 in the State of Arkansas to be appointed by the Director of the Arkansas
 24 Public Defender Commission;

25 (16) A prosecutor who regularly appears in a circuit court in
 26 the State of Arkansas appointed by the Prosecutor Coordinator;

27 (17) An attorney ad litem appointed by the Director of the
 28 Administrative Office of the Courts;

29 (18) Two (2) members with specialized knowledge, skills, or
 30 experience in the area of criminal law concerning sex offenses involving
 31 minors to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

32 (19) Two (2) members with specialized knowledge, skills, or
 33 experience in the area of criminal law concerning sex offenses involving
 34 minors to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

35 (20) The Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research or the
 36 director's designee.

1 (c)(1) The Chair of the House Interim Committee on Judiciary or the
 2 chair's designee shall call the first meeting within thirty (30) days of the
 3 effective date of this act and shall serve as chair at the first meeting.

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

7 (3)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings at the State
 8 Capitol.

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

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

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

15 (f) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation but may
 16 receive expense reimbursement according to Arkansas Code § 25-16-902 if an
 17 appropriation is made for that purpose and funds are available.

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

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

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 23 SECTION 2. Duties.

24 (a) The Arkansas Legislative Task Force for Review of Sex Offenses
 25 Involving Minors shall:

26 (1) Examine how the State of Arkansas responds to sex offenses
 27 involving minors with a focus on criminal justice and public safety;

28 (2) Determine the best practices to prevent sex offenses
 29 involving minors by conducting national research or by using other methods;

30 (3) Recommend more efficient methods of distributing and
 31 spending limited public moneys to prevent sex offenses involving minors;

32 (4) Recommend to the General Assembly specific changes to the
 33 law that will prevent sex offenses involving minors in the State of Arkansas
 34 in the form of bill drafts;

35 (5) Recommend to the General Assembly specific changes to the
 36 law that assist in the prosecution of perpetrators of sex offenses involving

1 minors in the State of Arkansas in the form of bill drafts; and

2 (6) Provide the Legislative Council with a written explanation
3 of the recommended legislative changes.

4 (b) The task force shall make its final report along with any
5 recommendations for proposed legislation to the Legislative Council no later
6 than October 1, 2008.

7 (c) The task force is abolished on June 30, 2009.

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