



Senate

File No. 914

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

(Reprint of File No. 147)

Substitute Senate Bill No. 303
As Amended by Senate Amendment
Schedule "A" and House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 29, 2015

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE STATE-WIDE RESPONSE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study the state-wide response to minors exposed to family violence.
3 Such study shall include, but not be limited to, (1) an examination of
4 existing policies and procedures used by the Department of Children
5 and Families, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
6 Services, health care professionals, law enforcement, guardians ad
7 litem, attorneys for minor children and the Judicial Branch for minors
8 who are exposed to family violence, and (2) the development of a state-
9 wide model policy for use by (A) the Department of Children and
10 Families, including organizations with which it contracts services; (B)
11 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, including
12 organizations with which it contracts services; (C) health care
13 professionals; (D) guardians ad litem; (E) attorneys for minor children;
14 (F) law enforcement; and (G) the Judicial Branch, when responding to

15 minors who are exposed to family violence.

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

17 (1) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
18 commissioner's designee;

19 (2) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
20 the commissioner's designee;

21 (3) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's
22 designee;

23 (4) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
24 or the commissioner's designee;

25 (5) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

26 (6) The Chief Public Defender, or the Chief Public Defender's
27 designee;

28 (7) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's
29 designee;

30 (8) A chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General
31 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children;

32 (9) A chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General
33 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services;

34 (10) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
35 of whom shall represent the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic
36 Violence and one of whom shall be an attorney licensed to practice law
37 in Connecticut;

38 (11) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
39 one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Children's Medical
40 Center and one of whom shall represent a multidisciplinary team
41 established pursuant to section 17a-106a of the general statutes;

42 (12) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of
43 whom shall represent the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association and
44 one of whom shall be an adult victim of domestic violence;

45 (13) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
46 Representatives, one of whom shall represent a designated child
47 advocacy center and one of whom shall be a medical doctor
48 specializing in the care of children exposed to family violence;

49 (14) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of
50 whom shall be a currently appointed guardian ad litem and one of
51 whom shall be a psychiatrist or psychologist specializing in the mental
52 health care of children exposed to family violence;

53 (15) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
54 Representatives, one of whom shall be a youth victim exposed to
55 family violence and one of whom shall be a currently appointed
56 attorney for the minor child; and

57 (16) Two appointed by the Chief Court Administrator, one of whom
58 shall be a judge of the Superior Court assigned to hear family matters
59 and one of whom shall represent the Judicial Branch Court Support
60 Services Division.

61 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (10)
62 to (15), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of
63 the General Assembly.

64 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
65 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
66 filled by the appointing authority.

67 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
68 pro tempore of the Senate shall select two chairpersons of the task
69 force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons
70 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held
71 not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

72 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
73 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
74 services shall serve as the administrative staff of the task force.

75 (g) Not later than January 15, 2016, the task force shall submit a
76 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
77 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
78 relating to human services and children, in accordance with the
79 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall
80 terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 15, 2016,
81 whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	Less than \$1,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There may be a cost of less than \$1,000 in FY 16 to those agencies participating in the task force to reimburse legislators and agency staff for mileage expenses.

Senate "A" strikes the language and associated fiscal impact in the underlying bill and establishes a task force. There may be a cost of less than \$1,000 in FY 16 to those agencies participating in the task force to reimburse legislators and agency staff for mileage expenses.

House "A" strikes the language and associated fiscal impact in the underlying bill and establishes a task force. There may be a cost of less than \$1,000 in FY 16 to those agencies participating in the task force to reimburse legislators and agency staff for mileage expenses.

The Out Years

There is no ongoing fiscal impact because the task force terminates in FY 16.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 303 (as amended by House "A" and Senate "A")*

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SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/05/2015)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 0 (04/07/2015)

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 28 Nay 0 (04/29/2015)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 40 Nay 0 (05/11/2015)