



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 108

February Session, 2022

Substitute House Bill No. 5242

House of Representatives, March 23, 2022

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION TASK FORCE.

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 sexual abuse and exploitation of children on the Internet or
3 facilitated by Internet users in the state during the period beginning
4 January 1, 2019, and ending December 31, 2021. Such study shall include
5 an examination of (1) the types and frequency of such abuse and
6 exploitation, (2) grooming tactics utilized by adults in order to engage
7 in such abuse and exploitation, and (3) any barriers that may prevent
8 the adequate or timely investigation or prosecution of such abuse and
9 exploitation.

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

11 (1) Five appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing
12 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
13 relating to children as follows: One who (A) has expertise in the

14 prosecution of child sexual abuse and exploitation originating on the
15 Internet, (B) has expertise in data and behavioral trends concerning
16 child sexual abuse and exploitation, (C) is a representative of the
17 Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, (D) is a representative of the
18 Alliance to End Sexual Violence, and (E) is a representative of Safe From
19 Online Sex Abuse;

20 (2) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
21 commissioner's designee;

22 (3) The Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and
23 Public Protection, or the commissioner's designee; and

24 (4) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's
25 designee.

26 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
27 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
28 be filled by the appointing authority.

29 (d) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
30 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children shall select
31 the chairperson of the task force from among the members of the task
32 force. Such chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the task force,
33 which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of
34 this section.

35 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
36 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
37 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

38 (f) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report
39 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
40 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
41 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
42 The report shall include, but not be limited to, (1) the number of
43 allegations of such abuse and exploitation reported to law enforcement,
44 (2) the number of such reports that resulted in arrest and the number of

45 such reports that resulted in prosecution, and (3) to the extent the task
 46 force can determine, the reasons why certain allegations were not
 47 prosecuted. The report shall not contain personally identifying
 48 information concerning victims of child sexual abuse or exploitation.
 49 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or
 50 January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

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

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), "the Internet" was inserted after "children on" for clarity.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a task force to study the sexual abuse and exploitation of children on the Internet or facilitated by Internet users in the state during the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021. The task force shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Committee on Children by January 1, 2023.

This bill has no fiscal impact as PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for task force members.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None



OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5242

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION TASK FORCE.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/10/2022)