



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 3730



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. MAHER, 26th Dist.
SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.

SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.
SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.
SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 327

File No. 120

Cal. No. 106

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF HATE SPEECH AND BULLYING ON CHILDREN."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
4 to study the effects and social impact of hate speech and bullying on
5 children. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) an
6 analysis of the effects of hate speech and bullying on the mental and
7 physical health and academic achievement of children, (2) an analysis of
8 the settings and environments in which children are most likely to
9 encounter and participate in hate speech or bullying, including whether
10 such hate speech or bullying occurs in person or through Internet-based
11 applications or forums, (3) an examination of whether children
12 encounter hate speech or bullying that is perpetrated by children or
13 adults, or both, in each such setting or environment, (4) an analysis of

14 the factors that may contribute to a child's likelihood of encountering
15 hate speech or bullying, and a child or adult's likelihood of perpetrating
16 hate speech or bullying, and (5) recommendations for strategies to
17 prevent, reduce and address the effects of hate speech and bullying in
18 communities and schools in the state, including, but not limited to, the
19 implementation of (A) school, community-based and state-wide
20 programs (i) for the prevention and reduction of hate speech and
21 bullying, and (ii) to reduce the effects on children of hate speech and
22 bullying, (B) public media campaigns, and (C) statutory changes
23 concerning the prevention and reduction of and response to hate speech
24 and bullying in schools. For the purposes of this section, "hate speech"
25 means any form of expression through which a child or adult intends to
26 vilify, humiliate or incite hatred against a child on the basis of such
27 child's race, religion, skin color, sex, gender identity, ethnicity,
28 disability, body weight or body type or national origin, and "bullying"
29 means unwanted and aggressive behavior among children that involves
30 a real or perceived power imbalance.

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

32 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
33 one of whom shall be a representative of an organization that works to
34 improve the behavioral health and well-being of children and one of
35 whom shall be a representative of an organization that advocates for
36 special education equity for children;

37 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
38 whom shall be a representative of an organization that works to
39 eliminate discrimination based on religion, and one of whom shall be a
40 representative of a state-wide association of school-based health centers;

41 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
42 Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of a state-wide
43 association of boards of education and one of whom shall be a
44 representative of an organization that works to eliminate discrimination
45 based on race;

46 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
47 shall be a representative of a state-wide association of public school
48 superintendents and one of whom shall be a representative of an
49 organization that works to eliminate discrimination based on sexual and
50 gender identity;

51 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
52 Representatives, who shall be a representative of a state chapter of a
53 national association of providers of pediatric care;

54 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
55 a representative of an organization that works to eliminate
56 discrimination based on disability status;

57 (7) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
58 designee;

59 (8) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
60 the commissioner's designee;

61 (9) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
62 commissioner's designee;

63 (10) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

64 (11) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's
65 designee;

66 (12) The executive director of the Commission on Human Rights and
67 Opportunities, or the executive director's designee; and

68 (13) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
69 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.

70 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
71 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
72 of the General Assembly.

73 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later

74 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
75 be filled by the appointing authority.

76 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
77 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
78 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
79 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
80 days after the effective date of this section.

81 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
82 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
83 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

84 (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report
85 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
86 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
87 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
88 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or
89 January 1, 2025, whichever is later."

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