

1 H.321

2 Introduced by Representatives Lorber of Burlington, Branagan of Georgia,
3 Haas of Rochester, Browning of Arlington, Davis of
4 Washington, French of Randolph, Lenex of Shelburne, Macaig
5 of Williston and South of St. Johnsbury

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Corrections; human services; children; incarcerated parents

9 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create a task force to provide
10 oversight and technical assistance to communities establishing procedures and
11 policies that improve the lives of children and families affected by the criminal
12 justice system.

13 An act relating to a task force on children and families affected by the
14 criminal justice system

15 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

16 Sec. 1. REMEMBER THE CHILDREN TASK FORCE

17 (a) There is created a task force to examine how the criminal justice system
18 affects the lives of children and families, develop best practices to improve the
19 lives of children and families that are affected and that are consistent with the
20 council of state government recommendations, and provide structure and

1 leadership with regard to prioritizing federal funding opportunities. The task
2 force shall be called the “Remember the Children Task Force.”

3 (b) The task force members shall include:

4 (1) a member of the house of representatives, to be appointed by the
5 speaker of the house;

6 (2) a member of the senate, to be appointed by the committee on
7 committees;

8 (3) a representative of Vermont’s congressional delegation, to be
9 appointed by the speaker of the house;

10 (4) the commissioner of the department for children and families or
11 designee;

12 (5) the director of family services in the department of corrections;

13 (6) a representative of law enforcement to be appointed by the chair of
14 the committee;

15 (7) the court administrator or designee;

16 (8) the guardian ad litem coordinator for the Vermont judiciary or
17 designee;

18 (9) the commissioner of the department of education or designee;

19 (10) the director of the Lamoille County Justice Project or designee;

20 (11) the executive director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic
21 and Sexual Violence or designee;

1 (12) the director of the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars program or designee;

2 (13) the director of the Visiting Nurse Association Fathers and Children

3 Together program or designee; and

4 (14) a representative from Kids-A-Part, who shall serve as the chair of
5 the committee;

6 (c) For attendance at a meeting when the general assembly is not in session,
7 legislative members of the task force shall be entitled to compensation for
8 services and reimbursement of expenses as provided under 2 V.S.A. § 406(a).

9 (d) The task force created under this section shall:

10 (1) Review existing policies and procedures related to children and
11 families affected by the criminal justice system.

12 (2) Develop recommendations regarding children and families affected
13 by the criminal justice system, including any changes to state policies or
14 legislation that are needed.

15 (3) Provide oversight and technical assistance to communities
16 establishing policies and procedures to improve the lives of children and
17 families affected by the criminal justice system.

18 (4) Provide structure and leadership to communities and nonprofit
19 organizations with regard to prioritizing federal funding opportunities.

20 (5) Report its findings and recommendations on an annual basis no later
21 than January 15 to the committee on corrections oversight, the house

1 committee on corrections and institutions, and the senate committee on
2 institutions.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.