

(dr req 14-921 – draft 1.2)
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By Senators Ayer and Sears,

Senate resolution relating to the Senate Review Panel on Child Protection.

Whereas, on February 21, 2014, two-year-old Dezirae Sheldon died as a result of head injuries, and her stepfather has been arrested and charged with murder in connection with her death, and

Whereas, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate has appointed a panel to investigate issues raised by the death of Dezirae, including whether current laws, policies, and procedures are sufficient to meet Vermont's high expectations concerning child protection, and to determine if legislative changes are necessary, and

Whereas, the Senate Review Panel on Child Protection is co-chaired by Senators Ayer and Sears, and includes Senators Cummings, Flory, French, Kitchel, and Mullin, and

Whereas, for the Panel to fulfill its mandate, it must have the ability to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of records and documents, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate Review Panel on Child Protection may conduct hearings, may administer oaths to and examine under oath any person, and shall have the power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, papers, vouchers, accounts, or documents, *and be it further*

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Resolved: That the Senate Review Panel on Child Protection shall continue to meet during the session as the Co-Chairs determine appropriate, may meet no more than ten times after the adjournment of the General Assembly, and may hold hearings at whatever locations the Co-Chairs determine appropriate, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Senate Review Panel on Child Protection shall cease to exist on January 6, 2015, *and be it further*

Resolved: That, for attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, members of the Panel shall be entitled to compensation and reimbursement for expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 406, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Senate Review Panel on Child Protection shall receive the assistance of the Office of Legislative Council.