

1 H.220

2 Introduced by Representatives Christie of Hartford and LaLonde of South

3 Burlington

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Department for Children and Families; CHINS

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the
8 CHINS Statutory Revision Task Force to consider updating specific provisions
9 of the State's laws governing children in need of supervision, in addition to
10 considering a full revision of the governing laws.

11 An act relating to establishing a task force to update Vermont's CHINS
12 laws

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

14 Sec. 1. CHILDREN IN NEED OF SUPERVISION; STATUTORY

15 REVISION TASK FORCE; REPORT

16 (a) Creation. There is created the CHINS Statutory Revision Task Force to
17 review and consider revising the Vermont statutes governing children in need
18 of supervision.

19 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following
20 members:

1 (1) the Chief Superior Judge of the Vermont Superior Court or designee;

2 (2) the Attorney General or designee;

3 (3) the Defender General or designee;

4 (4) the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families or
5 designee;

6 (5) the Vermont Child, Youth, and Family Advocate or designee;

7 (6) the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and
8 Sheriffs or designee;

9 (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Parent Representation Center,
10 Inc. or designee;

11 (8) the Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont or designee;

12 and

13 (9) the Executive Director of Lund or designee.

14 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall study Vermont's statutes
15 governing children in need of supervision, including the following issues:

16 (1) whether the definition of "reasonable efforts" under 33 V.S.A.
17 § 5102(25) should be updated;

18 (2) whether 33 V.S.A. § 5102 should otherwise be revised; and

19 (3) whether 33 V.S.A. chapter 53 should be amended generally.

1 (d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical,
2 and legal assistance of the State entities referenced in subdivisions (b)(1)–(6)
3 of this section.

4 (e) Report. On or before November 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit
5 a written report to Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Senate
6 Committee on Judiciary, and the House Committee on Judiciary with its
7 findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

8 (f) Meetings.

9 (1) The Chief Superior Judge of the Vermont Superior Court shall call
10 the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before July 1, 2025.

11 (2) The Task Force shall select a chair from among its members at the
12 first meeting.

13 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

14 (4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on February 1, 2026.

15 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on passage.