

Subject Parent Representation in Child Protection Proceedings Task Force

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Overview

This bill creates a task force to make recommendations for expanding the right to court-appointed counsel to all eligible parents, guardians, and custodians in all child protection proceedings where a child is at risk of imminent removal from the child's home, or has been removed.

Summary

| Section | Description |
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| 1 | Parent Representation in Child Protection Proceedings Task Force. |
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Subd. 1. Creation and duties. Creates the task force, to make recommendations on expanding the right to court-appointed counsel for all eligible parents, guardians, and custodians in all child protection proceedings where risk of removal is imminent. Requires the task force to make recommendations on: (1) program administration; (2) recruitment and retention of attorneys; (3) estimated costs; and (4) the division of funding between the state and counties.

Subd. 2. Membership. Specifies requirements for the 17 task force members, to be appointed by the governor by July 15, 2020. Specifies that members will not be compensated or reimbursed.

Subd. 3. Officers; meetings; staff. Requires the commissioner of human services to convene the task force by August 15, 2020, and to provide staff assistance. Requires the task force to elect co-chairs from among its members; specifies that the task force is subject to the Open Meeting Law.

Subd. 4. Report required. Requires a report to the legislature by December 15, 2020.

Subd. 5. Expiration. Specifies that the task force expires upon the submission of the report.

Makes this section effective the day following final enactment.



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