

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1894

By: Representative Barker

By: Senator B. Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE TO END
CHILD ABUSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE TO
END CHILD ABUSE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Blue Ribbon Task Force
to End Child Abuse – Creation – Membership – Duties.

(a) There is created the Blue Ribbon Task Force To End Child Abuse.

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

(1) One (1) member of the Arkansas Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic
Violence Commission, appointed by the Governor;

(2) One (1) school nurse, appointed by the Governor;

(3) One (1) school counselor, appointed by the Governor;

(4) One (1) employee of the Division of Children and Family
Services, appointed by the Governor;

(5) One (1) pediatrician, appointed by the Governor;

(6) One (1) advocate for child abuse prevention, appointed by
the Governor;

(7) One (1) owner of a child care center, appointed by the
Governor;

(8) One (1) representative of the home school community,
appointed by the Governor;



(9) One (1) member appointed by the Governor from the state at large to assist in carrying out the purpose of the task force;

(10) Four (4) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from the state at large to assist in carrying out the purpose of the task force;

(11) Four (4) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate from the state at large to assist in carrying out the purpose of the task force;

(12) The Chair of the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs or his or her designee; and

(13) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth or his or her designee.

(c) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

(d)(1) Members of the task force shall not be compensated for their service on the task force.

(2)(A) The Governor shall designate a member of the task force to serve as the chair.

(B) The chair shall call the first meeting of the task force within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this act.

(3)(A) The task force may meet using a digital platform.

(B) The task force shall meet at least six (6) times, but the task force may hold additional meetings at the call of the chair.

(4) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for conducting the business of the task force.

(5)(A) Ten (10) members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for transacting business of the task force.

(B) An affirmative vote of a majority of the members present shall be required for the passage of a motion or other task force action.

(6) The commission shall provide staff, meeting space, and materials for the task force.

(e)(1) The purpose of the task force is to take a systematic and holistic approach to eliminating child abuse in the state.

(2) To achieve the purpose stated in subdivision (e)(1) of this section, the task force shall:

(A) Study child abuse data in the state and the state's options for adopting or revising policies, procedures, programs, and services to assist in identifying and eliminating child abuse;

(B) Recommend programs and services aimed at identifying and eliminating child abuse in the state; and

(C) Develop policy recommendations, systematic recommendations, and recommendations regarding educational materials to help the state:

(i) Identify children who are being abused; and

(ii) Eliminate child abuse in the state.

(f) On or before July 1, 2022, the task force shall file with the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth a final written report of the task force's activities, findings, and recommendations.

(g) The task force shall expire on December 31, 2022.

APPROVED: 4/26/21