

HOUSE BILL No. 4940

September 3, 2013, Introduced by Rep. Kurtz and referred to the Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors.

A bill to amend 1975 PA 238, entitled
"Child protection law,"
by amending section 12b (MCL 722.632b), as added by 2012 PA 593.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 12b. (1) The task force on the prevention of sexual abuse
2 of children is created within the department.

3 (2) The governor shall appoint members to the task force in
4 consultation with the department. The appointment of members must
5 reflect the geographic diversity of this state. Members of the task
6 force must include the following:

7 (a) Individuals who have experience and expertise in the
8 fields of intervention and prevention of child abuse and neglect,

1 education, or child welfare.

2 (b) A representative from the Michigan coalition to end
3 domestic and sexual violence.

4 (c) A representative from the Michigan domestic and sexual
5 violence prevention and treatment board.

6 (d) A representative from the Michigan chapter of the national
7 children's alliance.

8 (e) An administrator or staff member of a child assessment
9 center.

10 (f) A licensed therapist trained to counsel or treat child
11 sexual abuse victims.

12 (g) A circuit court judge or his or her designee.

13 (h) A school district board member, intermediate school
14 district board member, or public school academy board member.

15 (3) The department director or his or her designee shall serve
16 as the task force's presiding officer. The task force shall meet at
17 the call of the presiding officer. The task force shall make
18 recommendations for reducing child sexual abuse in this state. The
19 task force shall also make recommendations for school policies that
20 address the sexual abuse of children. In making those
21 recommendations, the task force shall do all of the following:

22 (a) Gather information concerning child sexual abuse
23 throughout this state.

24 (b) Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state and
25 local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and
26 private organizations.

27 (c) Review steps taken and programs established in other

1 states to reduce child sexual abuse.

2 (d) Create goals for state policy that are aimed at preventing
3 child sexual abuse.

4 (e) Create recommendations and guidelines for school policies
5 addressing sexual abuse of children according to section 1505 of
6 the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1505. These
7 recommendations and guidelines shall be flexible enough to allow
8 accommodation for local autonomy and values.

9 (f) Create recommendations and guidelines for age-appropriate,
10 evidence-based child sexual abuse awareness.

11 (g) Create recommendations and guidelines for school personnel
12 to respond appropriately to pupils affected by sexual abuse.

13 (h) Create recommendations and guidelines for providing
14 educational material to parents and guardians on the warning signs
15 of child sexual abuse and information on assistance and referrals
16 or resources.

17 (i) Develop a child sexual abuse protocol to be utilized by
18 all community partners in order to help to identify, prevent, and
19 investigate child sexual abuse.

20 (j) Submit a final report with the task force's
21 recommendations to the governor and the legislature not later than
22 365 days after the members of the task force are appointed.

23 (4) The recommendations described under subsection (3) may
24 include proposals for specific statutory changes and methods to
25 foster cooperation among state agencies and between the state and
26 local government.

27 (5) The task force shall consult with the employees of the

1 department who work on child protection matters, the department of
2 state police, the state board of education, and any other state
3 agency or department necessary to accomplish the task force's
4 responsibilities under this section.

5 ~~—— (6) The members of the task force shall serve without~~
6 ~~compensation and shall not be reimbursed for their expenses.~~

7 (6) ~~(7)~~—The task force shall be abolished upon submission of
8 the final report required in subsection (3) to the governor and the
9 legislature.

10 (7) ~~(8)~~—Upon written request from a child or the child's
11 parent or legal guardian, that child shall be excused, without
12 penalty, from participating in the task force's information-
13 gathering efforts.

14 (8) ~~(9)~~—As used in this section, "task force" means the task
15 force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children created in
16 subsection (1).