

**HOUSE BILL No. 2585**

By Committee on Children and Seniors

2-1

1 AN ACT establishing the foster care oversight task force.

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3 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

4 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the foster care oversight  
5 task force. The task force shall: Review the level of oversight and  
6 supervision by the department for children and families over foster care  
7 contractors; evaluate whether a working group consisting of attorneys in  
8 the area of family law, judges, foster parents and parents with reintegrated  
9 children would aid in addressing foster care concerns; study the proper  
10 selection of foster care parents and the qualifications of foster parents;  
11 review the duties of those individuals responsible for foster children, the  
12 safe families act, the connection between the department for children and  
13 families and foster care contractors and other such areas of concern  
14 regarding foster care. The department for children and families shall, on  
15 request, provide data and information on foster care programs, including,  
16 but not limited to, the:

- 17 (1) Number of children in foster care;
- 18 (2) average length of stay in foster care before reintegration with the  
19 child's parents or placement in a permanent home;
- 20 (3) foster home licensing and inspection data, including a list of  
21 prohibitive offenses for foster home licensure;
- 22 (4) the annual numbers and types of cases of substantiated and  
23 documented maltreatment of foster children;
- 24 (5) foster home alcohol and tobacco use regulations;
- 25 (6) latest quarterly reports from foster care contractors;
- 26 (7) an annual crossover youth report examining the number of youth  
27 exiting home placement who are subsequently adjudicated as juvenile  
28 offenders;
- 29 (8) the number and the types of arrests or convictions, or both, of  
30 foster parents;
- 31 (9) number of foster homes by family structure;
- 32 (10) number of foster homes in which alcohol or tobacco, or both, are  
33 used;
- 34 (11) the highest, lowest and average number of days between a child's  
35 removal from the parental home and adjudication; and
- 36 (12) information on the number of days of school missed per year by

1 foster care children, by grade, for grades one through 12.

2 (b) The task force shall consist of 17 members appointed as follows:

3 (1) Two members of the house committee on children and seniors  
4 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

5 (2) one member of the house committee on children and seniors  
6 appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;

7 (3) two members of the senate committee on public health and  
8 welfare appointed by the president of the senate;

9 (4) one member of the senate committee on public health and welfare  
10 appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

11 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the  
12 speaker of the house of representatives;

13 (6) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the  
14 minority leader of the house of representatives;

15 (7) two members of the senate appointed by the president of the  
16 senate;

17 (8) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and

18 (9) five members appointed by the governor, to serve at the pleasure  
19 of the governor, as follows:

20 (A) An attorney who practices family law;

21 (B) a district court judge who maintains a family law docket;

22 (C) a member of CASA;

23 (D) a guardian ad litem; and

24 (E) a member of the Kansas children service league.

25 (c) (1) Legislative members shall be appointed for terms coinciding  
26 with the legislative terms for which such legislative members are elected  
27 or appointed.

28 (2) Members appointed by the governor shall be appointed for a term  
29 of three years.

30 (3) All members appointed to fill vacancies in the membership of the  
31 task force and all members appointed to succeed members appointed to  
32 membership on the task force shall be appointed in the manner provided  
33 for the original appointment of the member succeeded.

34 (d) The members originally appointed as members of the task force  
35 shall meet, upon the call of an appointed member designated by the  
36 speaker of the house of representatives as the first chairperson, within 30  
37 days of the effective date of this act. The vice-chairperson of the task force  
38 shall be elected by a quorum of the task force. Annually thereafter, the  
39 chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be elected by a quorum of the task  
40 force members. On and after the effective date of this act, the task force  
41 shall meet at least six times a year on the call of the chairperson.  
42 Additional meetings may be held on call of the chairperson when urgent  
43 circumstances exist that require such meetings. Nine members of the task

1 force shall constitute a quorum.

2 (e) At the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, the task  
3 force shall submit to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house  
4 of representatives, the house committee on children and seniors and the  
5 senate committee on public health and welfare a written report on the  
6 findings and recommendations of the task force for the previous year.

7 (f) If approved by the legislative coordinating council, members of  
8 the task force attending meetings authorized by the task force shall receive  
9 amounts provided for by K.S.A. 75-3223(e), and amendments thereto.

10 (g) In accordance with K.S.A. 46-1204, and amendments thereto, the  
11 legislative coordinating council may provide for such legislative and  
12 professional services as may be requested by the task force.

13 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
14 publication in the statute book.