
HOUSE BILL 2890

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Reams, Van Luven and Anderson

Read first time 01/28/94. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a family and child care safeguard task
2 force; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The family and child care safeguard task
5 force is established for the purposes of determining methods for (a)
6 evaluating the number and types of child abuse incidents occurring or
7 claimed to be occurring in or by day care centers, day care homes, and
8 other child care facilities; (b) evaluating the emotional, relational,
9 and financial consequences of such abuse on families, children, and
10 public and private service providers; (c) reducing the risks that such
11 abuse will occur by decreasing the opportunities for abuse to occur;
12 and (d) providing families and children with adequate procedural and
13 substantive safeguards to prevent abuse and service providers with
14 adequate protections to prevent harm from false or unsubstantiated
15 claims of abuse.

16 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following thirteen
17 members: The governor or the governor's designee; the secretary of the
18 department of social and health services or the secretary's designee;
19 two representatives from each caucus of the house of representatives to

1 be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; two
2 representatives from each caucus of the senate to be appointed by the
3 president of the senate; a representative from a major children's
4 welfare public policy organization; and two representatives from the
5 general public. The task force shall select its chair from among the
6 thirteen members. Staffing for the task force shall be provided by the
7 office of financial management.

8 (3) The task force shall:

9 (a) Review the occurrences of alleged, admitted, or proven child
10 abuse in or by day care centers, day care homes, and other child care
11 facilities, and the concerns, needs, and conditions of families,
12 children, and public and private service providers resulting from
13 abuse;

14 (b) Analyze the psychological, social, and economic impacts of
15 child abuse in or by day care centers, day care homes, and other child
16 care facilities on families, children, and public and private service
17 providers;

18 (c) Develop comprehensive policy guidelines and procedures for the
19 implementation of procedural and substantive safeguards that (i) will
20 reduce the risks that abuse will occur and decrease the opportunities
21 for abuse to occur, including requiring that upon request the
22 department of social and health services inform parents of children who
23 are attending child care facilities or who are considering sending
24 their children to child care facilities whether or not child abuse has
25 occurred at the facility or has been alleged to have occurred at the
26 facility, the current status of a complaint, and the resolution of the
27 incidents; and (ii) will ensure service providers are provided
28 appropriate protections against injuries caused by fraudulent,
29 frivolous, or unfounded allegations of abuse;

30 (d) Research efforts made by other states to ensure appropriate and
31 adequate measures are taken to reduce the incidence and chances of
32 child abuse in or by day care centers, day care homes, and other child
33 care facilities; and

34 (e) Report its final findings and recommendations to the
35 legislature no later than December 15, 1994, including legislation the
36 task force finds necessary for the implementation of the findings and
37 recommendations.

--- END ---