

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 286

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR McKENNA.

Read 1st time February 16, 2011, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1556S.011

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to the task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 160.2100 and 160.2110, to read as follows:

**160.2100. 1. The "Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children" is hereby created. The task force shall consist of all of the following members:**

(1) One member of the general assembly appointed by the president pro tem of the senate;

(2) One member of the general assembly appointed by the minority floor leader of the senate;

(3) One member of the general assembly appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(4) One member of the general assembly appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;

(5) The director of the department of social services or his or her designee;

(6) The commissioner of education or his or her designee;

(7) The director of the department of health and senior services or his or her designee;

(8) A representative of an agency that leads the collaboration of the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual and physical abuse cases, appointed by the governor;

(9) A representative of an organization representing law enforcement, appointed by the governor;

22           (10) Three active teachers employed in Missouri, appointed by  
23 the governor;

24           (11) A representative of an organization involved in the  
25 prevention of child abuse in this state, appointed by the governor;

26           (12) A school superintendent, appointed by the governor;

27           (13) A representative of a domestic violence shelter, appointed  
28 by the governor;

29           (14) An at-large member, appointed by the governor.

30           2. Members of the task force shall be individuals who are  
31 actively involved in the fields of the prevention of child abuse and  
32 neglect and child welfare. The appointment of members shall reflect  
33 the geographic diversity of the state.

34           3. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a majority vote  
35 of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet at the  
36 call of the presiding officer.

37           4. The task force shall make recommendations for reducing child  
38 sexual abuse in Missouri. In making those recommendations, the task  
39 force shall:

40           (1) Gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout  
41 the state;

42           (2) Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state and  
43 local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and  
44 private organizations;

45           (3) Create goals for state policy that would prevent child sexual  
46 abuse; and

47           (4) Submit a final report with its recommendations to the  
48 governor, general assembly, and the state board of education by  
49 January 1, 2012.

50           5. The recommendations may include proposals for specific  
51 statutory changes and methods to foster cooperation among state  
52 agencies and between the state and local government.

53           6. The task force shall consult with employees of the department  
54 of social services, the department of public safety, department of  
55 elementary and secondary education, and any other state agency,  
56 board, commission, office or department as necessary to accomplish the  
57 task force's responsibilities under this section.

58           7. The members of the task force shall serve without

59 **compensation and shall not be reimbursed for their expenses.**

60 **8. The task force shall be abolished upon submission of the final**  
61 **report to the governor and the general assembly.**

**160.2110. 1. The task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of**  
2 **children established in section 160.2100 may adopt and implement a**  
3 **policy addressing sexual abuse of children that may include:**

4 **(1) Age-appropriate curriculum for students in pre-K through**  
5 **fifth grade;**

6 **(2) Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse;**

7 **(3) Educational information to parents or guardians provided in**  
8 **the school handbook on the warning signs of a child being abused,**  
9 **along with any needed assistance, referral, or resource information;**

10 **(4) Available counseling and resources for students affected by**  
11 **sexual abuse; and**

12 **(5) Emotional and educational support for a child of abuse to**  
13 **continue to be successful in school.**

14 **2. Any policy adopted may address without limitation:**

15 **(1) Methods for increasing teacher, student, and parent**  
16 **awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children, including**  
17 **knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a**  
18 **victim of sexual abuse;**

19 **(2) Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse should**  
20 **take to obtain assistance and intervention; and**

21 **(3) Available counseling options for students affected by sexual**  
22 **abuse.**

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