

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 845

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RIDDLE.

Pre-filed January 2, 2018, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

5527S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 160.2100 and 160.2110, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof 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Section A. Sections 160.2100 and 160.2110, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 210.1200 and 210.1210, to read as follows:

210.1200. 1. Sections 210.1200 and 210.1210 shall be known and may be cited as "Erin's Law".

2. The "Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children" is hereby created to study the issue of sexual abuse of children. The task force shall consist of all of the following members:

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

(2) The director of the children's division within the department of social services, or his or her designee;

(3) The director of the department of mental health, or his or her designee;

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

(5) The director of the office of prosecution services, or his or her designee;

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

(7) The executive director of the children's trust fund board, or

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

18 his or her designee;

19 (8) A law enforcement representative appointed by the director
20 of the department of social services;

21 (9) An active teacher employed in Missouri appointed by the
22 director of the department of social services;

23 (10) A school principal appointed by the director of the
24 department of social services;

25 (11) A school superintendent appointed by the director of the
26 department of social services;

27 (12) A school counselor appointed by the director of the
28 department of social services;

29 (13) A representative of an organization involved in forensic
30 investigation relating to child abuse in this state appointed by the
31 director of the department of social services;

32 (14) A representative of the state domestic violence coalition
33 appointed by the director of the department of social services;

34 (15) A representative from the juvenile and family court
35 appointed by the director of the department of social services; and

36 (16) A representative from the Missouri Network of Child
37 Advocacy Centers appointed by the director of the department of social
38 services.

39 3. Members of the task force shall be individuals who are
40 actively involved in the fields of the prevention and treatment of child
41 abuse and neglect and child welfare. The appointment of members
42 shall reflect the geographic diversity of the state.

43 4. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a majority vote
44 of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet at the
45 call of the presiding officer.

46 5. The task force shall make recommendations for reducing child
47 sexual abuse and treating children who experience sexual abuse in
48 Missouri. In making those recommendations, the task force shall:

49 (1) Gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout
50 the state;

51 (2) Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state and
52 local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and
53 private organizations; and

54 (3) Create goals for state policy that would prevent child sexual

55 abuse and improve treatment for children who experience sexual abuse.

56 6. The recommendations may include proposals for specific
57 statutory changes and methods to foster cooperation among state
58 agencies and between the state and local government.

59 7. The task force shall consult with employees of the department
60 of social services, the department of public safety, department of
61 elementary and secondary education, and any other state agency,
62 board, commission, office, or department as necessary to accomplish
63 the task force's responsibilities under this section.

64 8. The members of the task force shall serve without
65 compensation and shall not be reimbursed for their expenses.

66 9. Beginning January 1, 2019, the department of social services,
67 in collaboration with the task force, shall make yearly reports to the
68 general assembly on the department's progress in preventing child
69 sexual abuse and expanding the availability of appropriate treatment
70 for children who experience sexual abuse.

 210.1210. 1. The task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of
2 children established in section 210.1200 may adopt and submit to the
3 commissioner of education and the state board of education policy
4 recommendations addressing sexual abuse of children that may include:

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

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

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

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

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

15 2. Any policy recommendation adopted may address without
16 limitation:

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

21 (2) Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse could

22 **take to obtain assistance and intervention; and**

23 **(3) Available counseling options for students affected by sexual**
24 **abuse.**

1 [160.2100. 1. Sections 160.2100 and 160.2110 shall be
2 known and may be cited as "Erin's Law".

3 2. The "Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of
4 Children" is hereby created to study the issue of sexual abuse of
5 children. The task force shall consist of all of the following
6 members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (8) The director of the office of prosecution services or his
21 or her designee;

22 (9) A representative representing law enforcement
23 appointed by the governor;

24 (10) Three active teachers employed in Missouri appointed
25 by the governor;

26 (11) A representative of an organization involved in forensic
27 investigation relating to child abuse in this state appointed by the
28 governor;

29 (12) A school superintendent appointed by the governor;

30 (13) A representative of the state domestic violence
31 coalition appointed by the governor;

32 (14) A representative from the juvenile and family court
33 appointed by the governor;

34 (15) A representative from Missouri Network of Child
35 Advocacy Centers appointed by the governor;

36 (16) An at-large member appointed by the governor.

37 3. Members of the task force shall be individuals who are
38 actively involved in the fields of the prevention of child abuse and
39 neglect and child welfare. The appointment of members shall
40 reflect the geographic diversity of the state.

41 4. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a majority
42 vote of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet
43 at the call of the presiding officer.

44 5. The task force shall make recommendations for reducing
45 child sexual abuse in Missouri. In making those recommendations,
46 the task force shall:

47 (1) Gather information concerning child sexual abuse
48 throughout the state;

49 (2) Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state
50 and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other
51 public and private organizations; and

52 (3) Create goals for state policy that would prevent child
53 sexual abuse.

54 6. The recommendations may include proposals for specific
55 statutory changes and methods to foster cooperation among state
56 agencies and between the state and local government.

57 7. The task force shall consult with employees of the
58 department of social services, the department of public safety,
59 department of elementary and secondary education, and any other
60 state agency, board, commission, office, or department as necessary
61 to accomplish the task force's responsibilities under this section.

62 8. The members of the task force shall serve without
63 compensation and shall not be reimbursed for their expenses.

64 9. Beginning January 1, 2014, the department of
65 elementary and secondary education, in collaboration with the task
66 force, shall make yearly reports to the general assembly on the
67 department's progress in preventing child sexual abuse.]

2 [160.2110. 1. The task force on the prevention of sexual
abuse of children established in section 160.2100 may adopt and

3 implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children that may
4 include:

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

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

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

12 (4) Available counseling and resources for students affected
13 by sexual abuse; and

14 (5) Emotional and educational support for a child of abuse
15 to continue to be successful in school.

16 2. Any policy adopted may address without limitation:

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

21 (2) Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse
22 could take to obtain assistance and intervention; and

23 (3) Available counseling options for students affected by
24 sexual abuse.]

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