General Assembly **Substitute Bill No. 6841**

January Session, 2025

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY METHODS AND PROGRAMS FOR REDUCING RATES OF POVERTY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to (1) study methods and programs for reducing rates of poverty among families in the state, including, but not limited to, universal basic income and other cash assistance programs, educational and employment training programs and programs to assist in paying for and reducing costs associated with child care services, (2) analyze the efficacy of such methods and programs and provide recommendations for the implementation of such methods and programs on a state-wide basis, (3) study systemic barriers to alleviating poverty, including, but not limited to, housing policies, transportation access, health care access, child care access and racial disparities, (4) study the ways in which inflation and regional cost differences impact rates of poverty across the state, (5) develop a method for tracking improvements in income, home ownership, job retention and other markers of economic mobility in areas of the state with high rates of poverty, (6) study the availability of educational, employment and child care programs in areas of the state with high rates of poverty and analyze gaps in such availability to determine where and how to meet the need for such programs, (7) identify any policies and programs, including, but not limited to,

programs described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, that may be implemented in the short-term to reduce rates of poverty and any structural reforms necessary to reduce rates of poverty into the future, (8) identify funding sources for programs that may reduce rates of poverty, including, but not limited to, state budget allocations, federal grants and philanthropic support, and (9) identify ways in which state agencies may collaborate to create efficiencies in the delivery of programs and services to reduce rates of poverty.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(2) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee;

(3) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's designee;

(4) The Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(5) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee;

(6) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

(7) The chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human services and appropriations, or the chairpersons' designees; and

(8) Not more than ten members jointly appointed by the cochairpersons of the working group, each of whom shall (A) have expertise in nonprofit administration, business administration, economics, education, housing, child welfare, child care, labor, workforce development or social services administration, or (B) be a representative of a faith-based or municipal organization or entity.

(c) Any member of the working group described or appointed under subdivision (7) or (8) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this session. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The House chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children and human services, or the chairpersons' designees, shall serve as cochairpersons of the working group. Such cochairpersons shall schedule each meeting of the working group, the first of which shall be held not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(g) Not later than June 1, 2026, the cochairpersons shall submit a preliminary report on the findings and recommendations of the working group to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(h) Not later than July 1, 2026, the cochairpersons shall hold a public forum, at which the cochairpersons shall present the preliminary report submitted pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and solicit public comment.

(i) Not later than June 1, 2027, the cochairpersons shall submit a final report on the findings and recommendations of the working group to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group

shall terminate on the date the cochairpersons submit such final report or June 1, 2027, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
In Subsecs. (e) and (f), "task force" was changed to "working group" for accuracy, in Subsec. (h), "preliminary" was inserted before "report" for clarity and the reference to Subsec. (c) was changed to Subsec. (g) for accuracy and in Subsec. (i), "final" was inserted before both instances of "report" for clarity.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*