General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 6900

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **4076**

Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND PERINATAL DEPRESSION SCREENING TOOLS AND DATA SHARING SYSTEMS.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to develop (1) guidelines for the use of (A) developmental screening tools by physicians and clinicians for children from birth to age three, and (B) screening tools to identify maternal perinatal depression during well-child pediatric appointments, and (2) an Internet-based system for the collection, analysis and sharing of data obtained from such developmental and perinatal depression screenings among physicians, clinicians and early intervention programs, for the purposes of measuring progress and outcomes, improving services and identifying trends and areas of need.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of the state's chapter of a national association of providers of pediatric medicine;

(2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a representative of an association of community health centers in the state;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall have expertise in the creation of tools to facilitate data analysis and the sharing of data;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of an organization that promotes awareness, prevention and treatment of maternal perinatal mental health issues;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of an organization that advocates for the care of children with behavioral and developmental needs;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of an organization that advocates for improved outcomes for children in the state;

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

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

(9) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

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

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty 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 task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations, including, but not limited to, the guidelines developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and recommendations for legislation necessary to implement and administer the system described in said subsection, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2026, whichever is later.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a task force to study child development and perinatal depression screening tools and data sharing systems.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]