



House of Representatives

File No. 584

General Assembly

February Session, 2026

(Reprint of File No. 9)

Substitute House Bill No. 5163
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 10, 2026

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY METHODS AND PROGRAMS FOR IMPROVING AFFORDABILITY FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to (1) study methods and programs for improving the affordability of
3 the state for children, families and young professionals, including, but
4 not limited to, cash assistance programs, educational and employment
5 training programs and programs to assist families in paying for and
6 reducing costs associated with child care services, (2) analyze the
7 efficacy of such methods and programs and provide recommendations
8 for the implementation of such methods and programs on a state-wide
9 basis, (3) study systemic barriers that prevent improvements to
10 affordability, including, but not limited to, housing policies,
11 transportation access, health care access, child care access and racial
12 disparities, (4) study the ways in which inflation and regional cost
13 differences impact affordability across the state, (5) develop a method

14 for tracking improvements in income, home ownership, job retention
15 and other markers of economic mobility in areas of the state with low
16 affordability, (6) study the availability of educational, employment and
17 child care programs in areas of the state with low affordability and
18 analyze gaps in such availability to determine where and how to meet
19 the need for such programs, (7) identify any policies and programs,
20 including, but not limited to, programs described in subdivision (1) of
21 this subsection, that may be implemented in the short term to improve
22 affordability and any structural reforms necessary to improve
23 affordability into the future, (8) identify funding sources for programs
24 that may improve affordability, including, but not limited to, state
25 budget allocations, federal grants and philanthropic support, and (9)
26 identify ways in which state agencies may collaborate to create
27 efficiencies in the delivery of programs and services to improve
28 affordability.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
42 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
43 relating to children, human services and appropriations, or the

44 chairpersons' and ranking members' designees; and

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

51 (c) Any member of the task force described or appointed under
52 subdivision (7) or (8) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
53 of the General Assembly.

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

57 (e) The chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General
58 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children and
59 appropriations, or the chairpersons' designees, shall serve as
60 cochairpersons of the task force. Such cochairpersons shall schedule
61 each meeting of the task force, the first of which shall be held not later
62 than thirty days after the effective date of this section.

63 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
64 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
65 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

66 (g) Not later than June 1, 2027, the cochairpersons shall submit a
67 preliminary report on the findings and recommendations of the task
68 force to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
69 cognizance of matters relating to children, human services and
70 appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
71 general statutes.

72 (h) Not later than July 1, 2027, the cochairpersons shall hold a public
73 forum, at which the cochairpersons shall present the preliminary report

74 submitted pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and solicit public
75 comment.

76 (i) Not later than June 1, 2028, the cochairpersons shall submit a final
77 report on the findings and recommendations of the task force to the joint
78 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
79 matters relating to children, human services and appropriations, in
80 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
81 The task force shall terminate on the date the cochairpersons submit
82 such final report or June 1, 2028, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a task force to study the state's affordability for children, families, and young professionals through the analysis of cash assistance, childcare, and systemic barriers. There is no fiscal impact because the participating agencies already possess the necessary expertise to fulfill these requirements.

House "A" makes technical and clarifying changes to the underlying bill that do not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5163 (as amended by House "A")

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SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (02/24/2026)