



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 6

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 156

Senate, March 9, 2026

The Committee on Children reported through SEN. MAHER, C. of the 26th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF INFANTS.

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 study the voluntary surrender of infants in the state pursuant to
3 section 17a-58 of the general statutes. Such study shall include, but need
4 not be limited to, an analysis of the (1) provisions of sections 17a-57 to
5 17a-60, inclusive, of the general statutes and section 17a-61 of the general
6 statutes, (2) policies and procedures of the Department of Children and
7 Families concerning voluntarily surrendered infants, and (3) policies
8 and procedures of hospitals operating emergency rooms concerning the
9 voluntary surrender of infants, with an emphasis on the ways in which
10 such provisions, policies and procedures may create or perpetuate
11 racial, ethnic, health, economic and socioeconomic disparities among
12 parents who engage in such voluntary surrender.

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

14 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
15 who shall have expertise in public health policy;

16 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
17 shall have expertise in child welfare policy;

18 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
19 Representatives, who shall have expertise in the application of social
20 equity principles to public policy;

21 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
22 a hospital employee designated to take physical custody of an infant
23 pursuant to section 17a-57 of the general statutes;

24 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
25 Representatives, who shall be a parent or lawful agent of a parent who
26 voluntarily surrendered an infant;

27 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
28 an attorney with experience representing parents in termination of
29 parental rights cases following the voluntary surrender of such parents'
30 infants;

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

33 (8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
34 designee; and

35 (9) A representative of a state-wide association of hospitals, who shall
36 be appointed by the chairpersons of the task force.

37 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
38 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
39 of the General Assembly.

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

43 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
 44 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
 45 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
 46 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
 47 days after the effective date of this section.

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

51 (g) Not later than May 1, 2027, the task force shall submit a report on
 52 its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the
 53 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in
 54 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
 55 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or
 56 May 1, 2027, whichever is later.

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

KID *Joint Favorable*

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, which establishes a task force to study the voluntary surrender of infants, results in no fiscal impact. The task force has the necessary expertise to carry out the requirements of the bill.



OLR Bill Analysis

SB 156

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF INFANTS.

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)