

Introduced by

Senators Poolman, Marcellais, Rust

Representatives Delmore, Fehr, Larson

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for the creation of a task force on substance exposed newborns;  
2 and to provide for a report to the legislative management.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. TASK FORCE ON SUBSTANCE EXPOSED NEWBORNS - MEMBERSHIP -**  
5 **DUTIES - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

6 1. The task force on substance exposed newborns is created for the purpose of  
7 researching the impact of substance abuse and neonatal withdrawal syndrome,  
8 evaluating effective strategies for treatment and prevention, and providing policy  
9 recommendations.

10 2. The task force consists of the following members:

11 a. The attorney general, or the attorney general's designee;

12 b. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive  
13 director's designee;

14 c. A member of the senate, appointed by the legislative management;

15 d. A member of the house of representatives, appointed by the legislative  
16 management;

17 e. A state's attorney, appointed by the North Dakota association of counties;

18 f. A representative of the North Dakota medical association;

19 g. A representative of an addiction and recovery association, appointed by the  
20 attorney general;

21 h. A representative of the North Dakota chapter of the march of dimes;

22 i. A representative of prevent child abuse North Dakota;

23 j. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive  
24 director's designee;

- 1           k. A representative from each of the following tribes, appointed by the Indian affairs  
2           commission:
- 3           (1) Standing Rock Sioux Tribe;  
4           (2) The Spirit Lake Tribe;  
5           (3) The Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation;  
6           (4) The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians; and  
7           (5) The Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe;
- 8           l. A representative of the Trenton Indian service area, appointed by the Indian  
9           affairs commission;
- 10          m. A representative of the department of human services with expertise in early  
11          intervention and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,  
12          appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
- 13          n. A representative of law enforcement, appointed by the attorney general;
- 14          o. A representative of the foster care community, appointed by the executive  
15          director of the department of human services; and
- 16          p. A county social services director.
- 17          3. The attorney general, or the attorney general's designee, shall serve as the chairman  
18          of the task force. The task force shall meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings may  
19          be held at the discretion of the chairman.
- 20          4. The task force may request appropriate staff services from the department of human  
21          services.
- 22          5. The members of the task force who are not state employees or members of the  
23          legislative assembly are entitled to mileage and expenses as provided by law for state  
24          officers and employees. Unless otherwise provided in this subsection, the expenses of  
25          appointed members are to be paid by the department of human services. A state  
26          employee who is a member of the task force is entitled to receive that employee's  
27          regular salary and is entitled to mileage and expenses, to be paid by the employing  
28          agency. The members of the task force who are members of the legislative assembly  
29          are entitled to compensation from the legislative council for attendance at task force  
30          meetings at the rate provided for members of the legislative assembly for attendance  
31          at interim committee meetings and are entitled to reimbursement for expenses

- 1           incurred in attending the meetings in the amounts provided by law for other state  
2           officers.
- 3       6.   The task force shall:
- 4           a.   Collect and organize data concerning the nature and extent of neonatal  
5           withdrawal syndrome from substance abuse in this state;
- 6           b.   Collect and organize data concerning the costs associated with treating  
7           expectant mothers and newborns suffering from withdrawal substance abuse;
- 8           c.   Identify available federal, state, and local programs that provide services to  
9           mothers who abuse drugs or alcohol and newborns who have neonatal  
10          withdrawal syndrome; and
- 11          d.   Evaluate methods to increase public awareness of the dangers associated with  
12          substance abuse, particularly to women, expectant mothers, and newborns.
- 13       7.   Before July 1, 2016, the task force shall report its findings and recommendations and  
14       any proposed legislation necessary to implement the recommendations to the  
15       legislative management.