

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~~Four enrolled tribal members
2 representing tribes located in the state, appointed by the Indian affairs
3 commission:

4 ~~(1) Standing Rock Sioux Tribe;~~

5 ~~(2) The Spirit Lake Tribe;~~

6 ~~(3) The Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation;~~

7 ~~(4) The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians; and~~

8 ~~(5) The Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe;~~

9 ~~l. A representative of the Trenton Indian service area, appointed by the Indian~~
10 ~~affairs commission;~~

11 ~~m.l.~~ A representative of the department of human services with expertise in early
12 intervention and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,
13 appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;

14 ~~n.m.~~ A representative of law enforcement, appointed by the attorney general;

15 ~~o.n.~~ A representative of the foster care community, appointed by the executive
16 director of the department of human services; ~~and~~

17 ~~p.o.~~ A county social services director, appointed by the executive director of the
18 department of human services;

19 p. A neonatologist, appointed by the North Dakota academy of pediatrics; and

20 q. A neonatal intensive care unit nurse, appointed by the state board of nursing.

21 3. The attorney general, or the attorney general's designee, shall serve as the chairman
22 of the task force. The task force shall meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings may
23 be held at the discretion of the chairman.

24 4. The task force may request appropriate staff services from the department of human
25 services.

26 5. The members of the task force who are not state employees or members of the
27 legislative assembly are entitled to mileage and expenses as provided by law for state
28 officers and employees. Unless otherwise provided in this subsection, the expenses of
29 appointed members are to be paid by the department of human services. A state
30 employee who is a member of the task force is entitled to receive that employee's
31 regular salary and is entitled to mileage and expenses, to be paid by the employing

1 agency. The members of the task force who are members of the legislative assembly
2 are entitled to compensation from the legislative council for attendance at task force
3 meetings at the rate provided for members of the legislative assembly for attendance
4 at interim committee meetings and are entitled to reimbursement for expenses
5 incurred in attending the meetings in the amounts provided by law for other state
6 officers.

7 6. The task force shall:

8 a. Collect and organize data concerning the nature and extent of neonatal
9 withdrawal syndrome from substance abuse in this state;

10 b. Collect and organize data concerning the costs associated with treating
11 expectant mothers and newborns suffering from withdrawal substance abuse;

12 c. Identify available federal, state, and local programs that provide services to
13 mothers who abuse drugs or alcohol and to newborns who have neonatal
14 withdrawal syndrome [and evaluate those programs and services to determine if](#)
15 [gaps in programs or ineffective policies exist](#); and

16 d. Evaluate methods to increase public awareness of the dangers associated with
17 substance abuse, particularly to women, expectant mothers, and newborns.

18 7. Before July 1, 2016, the task force shall report its findings and recommendations and
19 any proposed legislation necessary to implement the recommendations to the
20 legislative management.