

Sixty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2342

Introduced by

Senator Grabinger

Representative Satrom

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for the creation of a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of
2 children; and to provide a report to the legislative management.

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

4 **SECTION 1. TASK FORCE ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN -**
5 **REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNOR.**

6 1. During the 2017-18 interim, a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children
7 shall gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state and
8 develop recommendations for legislation to reduce child sexual abuse.

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

10 a. One member of the senate and one member of the house of representatives
11 appointed by the chairman of the legislative management. One legislator must be
12 a member of the majority party and one legislator must be a member of the
13 minority party;

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

16 c. A representative of a children's advocacy center or similar organization that
17 assists in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual and
18 physical abuse cases, appointed by the executive director of the department of
19 human services;

20 d. A representative of an organization involved in the prevention of child abuse,
21 appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;

22 e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;

23 f. A representative of law enforcement, appointed by the attorney general; and

- 1 g. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive
2 director's designee.
- 3 3. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's
4 designee, shall convene the task force. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by
5 a majority vote of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet at the
6 call of the presiding officer.
- 7 4. The task force shall:
- 8 a. Gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state;
- 9 b. Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state and local agencies,
10 community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations;
- 11 c. Create goals for state policy that would prevent child sexual abuse; and
- 12 d. Submit a final report with its recommendations to the governor and the legislative
13 management.
- 14 5. The recommendations of the task force may include proposals for specific statutory
15 changes and methods to foster cooperation among state agencies and between the
16 state and local governments in adopting and implementing a policy addressing sexual
17 abuse of children which may include age-appropriate curriculum for students in
18 prekindergarten through grade five; training for school personnel on child sexual
19 abuse; educational information to parents or guardians provided in school handbooks
20 regarding the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed
21 assistance, referral, or resource information; available counseling and resources for
22 students affected by sexual abuse; and emotional and educational support for a child
23 of abuse to continue to be successful in school.