

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Strengthening the Child Welfare Workforce for Children and
6 Families Act.

7 Section 5. Purpose. It is the purpose of this Act to create
8 a task force to study the compensation and workload of child
9 welfare workers to determine the role that compensation and
10 workload play in the recruitment and retention of child welfare
11 workers, and to determine the role that staff turnover plays in
12 achieving safety and timely permanency for children.

13 Section 10. Task Force on Strengthening the Child Welfare
14 Workforce for Children and Families.

15 (a) As used in this Act:

16 "Child welfare workers" or "staff" means child welfare
17 caseworkers, child welfare specialists, and child welfare
18 specialist supervisors.

19 "Child welfare services job" mean an employment position as
20 a child welfare caseworker, child welfare specialist, or child
21 welfare specialist supervisor.

22 (b) The Task Force on Strengthening the Child Welfare

1 Workforce for Children and Families is created to do all of the
2 following:

3 (1) Perform a policy and literature review regarding:
4 (i) compensation and caseload standards in the field of
5 child welfare; (ii) staff turnover rates; and (iii) the
6 impact compensation, caseload, and staff turnover have on
7 achieving safety and timely permanency for children.

8 (2) Survey employers in the public and private sector
9 to determine:

10 (A) how many child welfare service jobs exist;

11 (B) the compensation paid to child welfare
12 workers;

13 (C) how many child welfare service jobs are filled
14 and how many are vacant;

15 (D) how many child welfare service jobs are filled
16 by persons who have at least 18 months in the position;

17 (E) the rate of turnover for child welfare workers;
18 and

19 (F) the causes of turnover for child welfare
20 workers.

21 (3) Conduct a detailed time log analysis for child
22 welfare workers to determine how much time is available to
23 complete each administrative task and how much time is
24 actually spent to complete each administrative task. The
25 time log analysis shall expressly ask child welfare workers
26 the following question for each administrative task, "Is

1 this task duplicative of one that you have already
2 completed?".

3 (4) Develop recommendations on how to (i) improve the
4 recruitment and retention of child welfare workers; and
5 (ii) reduce the turnover rates for child welfare workers.

6 (c) Members of the Task Force shall include:

7 (1) 2 members appointed by the Governor;

8 (2) 2 legislative members appointed by the Speaker of
9 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be
10 designated as Co-Chairperson;

11 (3) 2 legislative members appointed by the Minority
12 Leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall
13 be designated as Co-Chairperson;

14 (4) 2 legislative members appointed by the President of
15 the Senate, one of whom shall be designated as
16 Co-Chairperson;

17 (5) 2 legislative members appointed by the Senate
18 Minority Leader, one of whom shall be designated as
19 Co-Chairperson;

20 (6) the Director of the Illinois Criminal Justice
21 Information Authority, or his or her designee;

22 (7) the Director of Children and Family Services, or
23 his or her designee;

24 (8) the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity,
25 or his or her designee;

26 (9) the Principal Investigator for the Child

1 Protection Training Academy at the University of Illinois;

2 (10) a person appointed by a labor union that
3 represents State employees;

4 (11) a current private sector employee appointed by the
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

6 (12) a person representing a non-profit, statewide
7 organization that represents private sector child welfare
8 providers.

9 (d) The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
10 shall provide administrative and other support to the Task
11 Force.

12 (e) The Department of Children and Family Services shall
13 hire an independent consultant to aid in the collection,
14 cataloguing, and analysis of child welfare data and whose
15 services shall conclude when the Task Force is dissolved.

16 (f) The Task Force shall consider contracting with a
17 qualified company, university, or other entity with
18 demonstrated experience studying and improving human resources
19 management.

20 (g) The Task Force shall meet no less than 6 times.

21 (h) The Task Force shall submit a preliminary report to the
22 General Assembly and the Governor no later than October 1,
23 2019, and a final electronic report, along with recommendations
24 and any proposed legislation, to the General Assembly and the
25 Governor by January 1, 2020.

26 The reports to the General Assembly shall be filed with the

1 Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the
2 Senate in electronic form only, in the manner that the Clerk
3 and the Secretary shall direct.

4 (i) The Task Force is dissolved on January 1, 2021.

5 Section 15. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,
6 2021.

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
8 becoming law.