

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Chair of Committee

March 14, 2023
Date

Committee on Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB23-1160 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

- 1 Amend printed bill, page 3, strike line 1 and substitute "**written notice**
- 2 **- definitions.**".
- 3 Page 3, strike line 2.
- 4 Page 3, strike line 8 and substitute "FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR AN INCIDENT
- 5 OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT BY A COUNTY DEPARTMENT."
- 6 Page 3, strike lines 9 through 11 and substitute:
- 7 **"(2) Written notice of opportunity for appeal. A"**.
- 8 Page 3, line 12, strike "STATE" and substitute "COUNTY".
- 9 Page 3, line 12, after "NOTICE" insert "PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-3-313.5
- 10 (3)".
- 11 Page 3, strike lines 13 through 15 and substitute "THE OPPORTUNITY TO
- 12 APPEAL AND HAVE A HEARING. THE WRITTEN NOTICE MUST BE SENT".
- 13 Page 3, line 18, strike "STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUED ITS FINDINGS." and
- 14 substitute "COUNTY DEPARTMENT ENTERED ITS FINDINGS. IF THE PERSON
- 15 IS A MINOR, THE WRITTEN NOTICE MUST BE SENT TO THE MINOR, THE
- 16 MINOR'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN, AND ANY GUARDIAN AD LITEM OR
- 17 COUNSEL FOR YOUTH, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 13-91-103, APPOINTED IN A
- 18 DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, CRIMINAL, OR DELINQUENCY CASE. IF THE
- 19 PERSON IS ENROLLED IN THE FOSTER YOUTH IN TRANSITION PROGRAM
- 20 PURSUANT TO PART 3 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 19, THE WRITTEN NOTICE

- 1 MUST BE SENT TO ANY GUARDIAN AD LITEM OR COUNSEL FOR YOUTH
2 ASSIGNED TO THE YOUTH."
- 3 Page 3, line 20, strike "(I)" and substitute "(a)".
- 4 Page 3, line 21, strike "(A)" and substitute "(I)".
- 5 Page 3, line 22, strike "(B)" and substitute "(II)".
- 6 Page 3, line 24, strike "(C)" and substitute "(III)".
- 7 Page 3, line 27, strike "(D)" and substitute "(IV)".
- 8 Page 4, line 3, strike "(E)" and substitute "(V)".
- 9 Page 4, line 5, strike "(F)" and substitute "(VI)".
- 10 Page 4, line 8, strike "(G)" and substitute "(VII)".
- 11 Page 4, line 10, strike "(H)" and substitute "(VIII)".
- 12 Page 4, line 12, strike "(I)" and substitute "(IX)".
- 13 Page 4, line 14, strike "(J)" and substitute "(X)".
- 14 Page 4, line 20, strike "(K)" and substitute "(XI)".
- 15 Page 4, strike lines 22 through 25.
- 16 Page 4, line 26, strike "(III)" and substitute "(b)".
- 17 Page 5, line 1, strike "SYSTEM;" and substitute "SYSTEM, SUBJECT TO ANY
18 REDACTIONS REQUIRED BY LAW;".
- 19 Page 5, line 2, strike "(IV) A" and substitute "(c) INFORMATION ABOUT
20 HOW THE PERSON MAY OBTAIN A".
- 21 Page 5, line 3, strike "AND".
- 22 Page 5, strike lines 4 through 6 and substitute:
- 23 "(d) INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD".

1 Page 5, line 7, strike "19-3.3-102." and substitute "19-3.3-102; AND
2 (e) INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS'
3 COUNSEL CREATED IN SECTION 13-92-103."

4 Page 5, strike lines 8 through 17 and substitute:

5 "(3) **Background checks.** FOR EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER
6 PURPOSES, A BACKGROUND CHECK THROUGH THE AUTOMATED CHILD
7 WELFARE SYSTEM MAY ONLY BE CONDUCTED AND RELEASED PURSUANT
8 TO SECTIONS 19-1-307, 26.5-5-316, AND 26-6-705 FOR A PERSON SEEKING
9 EMPLOYMENT OR VOLUNTEERING IN A ROLE THAT REQUIRES THE CARE,
10 TREATMENT, OR SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN, OR UNSUPERVISED CONTACT
11 WITH CHILDREN."

12 Page 6, line 6, strike "COUNSEL." and substitute "COUNSEL, IF DESIRED.
13 COUNSEL IS ONLY APPOINTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION."

14 Page 6, strike line 12 and substitute "COUNSEL. IF COUNSEL FOR YOUTH
15 HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE YOUTH IN A DEPENDENCY AND
16 NEGLECT OR FOSTER YOUTH IN TRANSITION PROGRAM CASE THROUGH THE
17 OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE ESTABLISHED IN SECTION
18 13-91-102, THE YOUTH'S COUNSEL FOR YOUTH MAY CONTINUE
19 REPRESENTING THE YOUTH THROUGHOUT THE HEARING REQUESTED
20 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION IF APPROVED BY THE
21 OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE. IF A GUARDIAN AD LITEM IS
22 APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PERSON IN A
23 DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, CRIMINAL, OR DELINQUENCY CASE THROUGH
24 THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE, THE PERSON'S GUARDIAN AD
25 LITEM MAY CONTINUE REPRESENTING THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PERSON
26 THROUGHOUT THE HEARING REQUESTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF
27 THIS SECTION IF APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S
28 REPRESENTATIVE."

29 Page 6, line 22, strike "UPON, AT A MINIMUM," and substitute "UPON".

30 Page 6, strike lines 23 through 27.

31 Page 7, strike lines 1 through 17.

32 Reletter succeeding paragraphs accordingly.

33 Page 7, line 19, strike "AGE." and substitute "AGE, OR AGAINST A PERSON
34 WHO IS THIRTEEN TO EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE UNLESS THE PERSON IS A

1 PARENT OF THE ALLEGED VICTIM OR THE LEVEL OF THE FINDING IS SEVERE,
2 EGREGIOUS, NEAR-FATAL, OR FATAL."

3 Page 7, strike lines 20 through 27.

4 Page 8, strike lines 1 through 16 and substitute:

5 "(5) **Rules.** NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2024, THE STATE BOARD, IN
6 COLLABORATION WITH COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S
7 REPRESENTATIVE, AND THE OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL,
8 SHALL PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS
9 SECTION AND TO PROMOTE FAIRNESS AND EFFICIENCY IN THE APPEALS
10 PROCESS.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 19-3-313.7 as
12 follows:

13 **19-3-313.7. Automated child welfare system task force -**
14 **membership - recommendations - legislative declaration - repeal.**

15 **(1) Legislative declaration.** (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND
16 DECLARES THAT:

17 (I) THE COLORADO AUTOMATED CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM, KNOWN
18 AS THE "TRAILS SYSTEM", IS A CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM USED BY
19 TRAINED CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS TO MANAGE INFORMATION IN
20 ORDER TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT;

21 (II) WHEN A PERSON IN COLORADO IS FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR
22 CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT BY A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN OR
23 SOCIAL SERVICES, A FINDING IS ENTERED INTO THE TRAILS SYSTEM,
24 WHICH OCCURS SEPARATELY FROM ANY COURT PROCESS;

25 (III) A TRAILS SYSTEM BACKGROUND CHECK CAN ONLY BE
26 CONDUCTED AND RELEASED FOR A PERSON SEEKING EMPLOYMENT OR
27 VOLUNTEERING IN A ROLE THAT REQUIRES THE CARE, TREATMENT, OR
28 SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN, OR UNSUPERVISED CONTACT WITH CHILDREN;

29 (IV) CHILD ABUSE RECORDS AND REPORTS PROVIDE PROTECTION
30 TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN COLORADO; HOWEVER, WHEN A PERSON
31 HAS NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTEST A FINDING OF CHILD ABUSE
32 OR NEGLECT, IT CAN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; AND

33 (V) EQUITABLE ACCESS, INCLUDING ACCESS TO LEGAL COUNSEL,
34 AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE APPEALS PROCESS IS A PRIORITY TO THOSE
35 PROVIDING AND RECEIVING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

36 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS
37 NECESSARY TO CREATE A TASK FORCE THAT CONSISTS OF PEOPLE WITH
38 EXPERIENCE IN OR KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD WELFARE POLICIES AND
39 PROCEDURES TO EXAMINE CURRENT RULES AND STATUTES GOVERNING
40 FINDINGS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO

1 THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON POTENTIAL
2 ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO SUPPORT DUE PROCESS,
3 FAIRNESS, AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE APPEALS PROCESS.

4 (2) **Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
5 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

6 (a) "AUTOMATED CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM" MEANS THE STATE
7 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AUTOMATED CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
8 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 19-3-313.3, KNOWN AS THE "TRAILS SYSTEM".

9 (b) "BACKGROUND CHECK" MEANS ANY CHECK OF THE
10 AUTOMATED CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM FOR EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER
11 PURPOSES PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 19-1-307, 26.5-5-316, AND 26-6-705.

12 (c) "PERSON" MEANS A PERSON, INCLUDING A CHILD OR YOUTH,
13 SUSPECTED OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

14 (d) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE AUTOMATED CHILD WELFARE
15 SYSTEM TASK FORCE CREATED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (3) **Automated child welfare system task force.** (a) THERE IS
17 CREATED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN,
18 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-3.3-102, THE AUTOMATED CHILD
19 WELFARE SYSTEM TASK FORCE TO ANALYZE CURRENT STATUTES, RULES,
20 AND PROCEDURES FOR ENTERING, RELEASING, AND APPEALING A FINDING
21 OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

22 (b) THE TASK FORCE SHALL FOCUS ON SERVING UNDER-RESOURCED
23 COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
24 WHO ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS
25 OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT. THE TASK FORCE MAY MAKE FINDINGS
26 AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE GOVERNOR,
27 AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE
28 CHANGES TO UPDATE THE PROCEDURES FOR ENTERING, RELEASING, AND
29 APPEALING FINDINGS OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN ORDER TO CREATE
30 AN EQUITABLE SYSTEM FOR ALL COLORADO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN,
31 INCLUDING HOW TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FINDINGS OF CHILD
32 ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN PROTECTING CHILDREN AND HOW TO MITIGATE
33 THE IMPACT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FINDINGS ON
34 UNDER-RESOURCED COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, AND PERSONS
35 WITH DISABILITIES.

36 (4) **Membership.** (a) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE
37 FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

38 (I) THE CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN, AS DESCRIBED IN
39 SECTION 19-3.3-102, OR THE OMBUDSMAN'S DESIGNEE;

40 (II) TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
41 SERVICES, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT
42 OF HUMAN SERVICES;

43 (III) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S

1 REPRESENTATIVE CREATED IN SECTION 13-91-104, APPOINTED BY THE
2 DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE;

3 (IV) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE OFFICE OF THE RESPONDENT
4 PARENTS' COUNSEL CREATED IN SECTION 13-92-103, APPOINTED BY THE
5 DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL;

6 (V) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING COUNTY DEPARTMENTS,
7 APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION
8 REPRESENTING COUNTY DEPARTMENTS;

9 (VI) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY
10 CHILDHOOD, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
11 DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD;

12 (VII) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE OFFICE OF THE
13 ADMINISTRATIVE COURTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND
14 ADMINISTRATION, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
15 DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION;

16 (VIII) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE CHILD
17 PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN:

18 (A) TWO MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT A COUNTY DEPARTMENT, ONE
19 FROM AN URBAN COUNTY AND ONE FROM A RURAL COUNTY;

20 (B) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A COUNTY ATTORNEY REPRESENTING
21 COUNTY DEPARTMENTS;

22 (C) ONE MEMBER WITH EXPERIENCE PROVIDING KINSHIP CARE OR
23 AS A FOSTER PARENT;

24 (D) ONE MEMBER FROM A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION
25 REPRESENTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES;

26 (E) THREE MEMBERS REPRESENTING INDIVIDUALS WITH LIVED
27 EXPERIENCE WITH THE STATE'S ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS PROCESS;

28 (F) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION
29 SERVING OR REPRESENTING VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS;

30 (G) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDER, AS
31 DEFINED IN SECTION 26.5-5-303 (4);

32 (H) ONE MEMBER WHO IS AN ATTORNEY WITH EXPERIENCE
33 REPRESENTING CLIENTS IN APPEALS BEFORE AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
34 JUDGE; AND

35 (I) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A CURRENT OR FORMER LICENSED SOCIAL
36 WORKER WITH EXPERIENCE CONDUCTING CHILD WELFARE ASSESSMENTS.

37 (b) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL APPOINT MEMBERS WHO
38 REPRESENT DIVERSE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS, RACE AND ETHNICITY,
39 GENDER, RELIGION, LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM,
40 AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS.

41 (c) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL MAKE THE
42 APPOINTMENTS NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2023. THE TERM OF THE
43 APPOINTMENT IS FOR THE DURATION OF THE TASK FORCE. THE APPOINTING

1 AUTHORITIES SHALL FILL ANY VACANCY SUBJECT TO THE SAME
2 QUALIFICATIONS AS THE INITIAL APPOINTMENT.

3 (d) THE CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN, OR THE OMBUDSMAN'S
4 DESIGNEE, IS THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE. AT THE TASK FORCE'S FIRST
5 MEETING, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SELECT A VICE-CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS
6 MEMBERS. THE CHAIR AND THE VICE-CHAIR SERVE FOR THE DURATION OF
7 THE TASK FORCE.

8 (e) THE CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN SHALL CONVENE THE
9 FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2023.
10 THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE EVERY MONTH UNTIL THE
11 TASK FORCE SUBMITS ITS FINAL REPORT AND AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR
12 AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE TASK FORCE'S DUTIES. THE TASK FORCE
13 MAY MEET ELECTRONICALLY. THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD PROTECTION
14 OMBUDSMAN SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT AS NECESSARY FOR THE
15 TASK FORCE TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES.

16 (5) **Task force recommendations.** (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL,
17 AT A MINIMUM, ANALYZE:

18 (I) WHETHER A STUDY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE
19 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRENT PROCESS FOR MAKING, ENTERING,
20 APPEALING, AND RELEASING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FINDINGS AND
21 DETERMINE THE NECESSARY FUNDING FOR SUCH A STUDY;

22 (II) THE SUFFICIENCY OF STATEWIDE DATA THAT MEASURES
23 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE EXPERIENCES OF PERSONS FOUND
24 RESPONSIBLE BY COUNTY DEPARTMENTS FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT;

25 (III) THE COMPREHENSIVENESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING
26 RULES AND STATUTES IN ENSURING TIMELINESS AND DUE PROCESS UNDER
27 THE CURRENT PROCESS FOR APPEALING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
28 FINDINGS;

29 (IV) NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES; AND

30 (V) IN CONSULTATION WITH ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS AS
31 NEEDED, ADDRESS ALL ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS NECESSARY TO FINALIZE
32 THE TASK FORCE'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

33 (b) THE TASK FORCE SHALL DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS
34 REGARDING:

35 (I) OPTIONS TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION TO ALL INDIGENT
36 PERSONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
37 FINDINGS;

38 (II) OPTIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS, EDUCATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY
39 TO APPEALS RELATED TO CHILD ABUSE AND; AND

40 (III) WHEN A FINDING SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE AUTOMATED
41 CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM OR RELEASED DURING A BACKGROUND CHECK OF
42 A PERSON.

43 (c) THE TASK FORCE MAY DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS AT ITS

1 DISCRETION CONCERNING:

2 (I) STATEWIDE AND NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES FOR ENSURING DUE
3 PROCESS IN APPEALS OR REVIEW OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FINDINGS
4 AND THE USE OF SUCH FINDINGS FOR BACKGROUND CHECK PURPOSES;

5 (II) RESOURCES NECESSARY TO IMPROVE OR FACILITATE
6 COMMUNICATION EFFORTS OF COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND THE STATE
7 DEPARTMENT WITH PERSONS FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR ABUSE AND
8 NEGLECT;

9 (III) WHETHER CERTAIN LEVELS OF SEVERITY OR TYPES OF
10 FINDINGS SHOULD NOT BE REPORTED ON BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR
11 PERSONS BEING CONSIDERED FOR EMPLOYMENT OR VOLUNTEER
12 OPPORTUNITIES WORKING WITH CHILDREN; AND

13 (IV) BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICES, AND
14 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CHANGES.

15 (d) IN CARRYING OUT THIS SUBSECTION (5), THE TASK FORCE
16 SHALL CONSIDER:

17 (I) THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND THE STATE
18 CONSTITUTION, CASE LAW, STATUTES, RULES, PRACTICES, AND STANDARDS
19 THAT GOVERN THE DETERMINATION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
20 FINDINGS;

21 (II) BEST PRACTICES FOLLOWED IN OTHER STATES OR
22 RECOMMENDED BY NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE EXPERTS TO PROMOTE DUE
23 PROCESS, POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES, TRANSPARENCY, AND
24 SAFETY FOR CHILDREN;

25 (III) FEDERAL GUIDANCE; AND

26 (IV) JUVENILE CODES AND RULES FROM OTHER STATES
27 IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICES.

28 (e) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE TASK FORCE
29 WITH COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT PROCESS FOR
30 ASSESSMENTS, APPEALS, AND THE RELEASE OF RECORDS, INCLUDING A
31 GLOSSARY OF SPECIFIC TERMS TO AIDE IN THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING
32 OF THE PROCESSES.

33 (6) **Report.** (a) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 30, 2023, THE TASK
34 FORCE SHALL SUBMIT A FIRST-YEAR STATUS REPORT ADDRESSING, AT A
35 MINIMUM, RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO ENSURE ACCESS TO COUNSEL
36 FOR INDIGENT PERSONS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PUBLIC AND
37 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE
38 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR
39 COMMITTEES. THE FIRST-YEAR STATUS REPORT MUST INCLUDE A
40 SUMMARY OF THE TASK FORCE'S WORK AND THE TASK FORCE'S INITIAL
41 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, IF AVAILABLE.

42 (b) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, THE TASK FORCE SHALL
43 SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PUBLIC AND

1 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE
2 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR
3 COMMITTEES, THAT INCLUDES A SUMMARY OF THE TASK FORCE'S WORK
4 AND THE TASK FORCE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, IF APPLICABLE.

5 (7) **Repeal.** THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2025.

6 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
7 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety."

** ** ** ** **