

Committee on Education

HB 7033 — Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys

by Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee and Rep. Koster and others

The bill establishes the Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys within the Department of Education (DOE) to examine evidence-based strategies for closing the achievement gap for boys and to make recommendations to the DOE, the Governor, and the Legislature. The recommendations must address:

- Professional development for instructional personnel and school administrators.
- The selection of curriculum, supplemental materials, and classroom activities in early learning programs and K-12 schools.
- Academic, behavioral, and mental health supports to help educate and raise young men who are better prepared for success in school and in life.

The bill establishes the Commissioner of Education or a designee as chair of the task force. Other members of the task force must be appointed by July 1, 2021, including stakeholder appointments by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The bill requires the task force to convene by August 1, 2021, and upon the call of the chair thereafter. The task force must submit a report containing its recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2021.

The bill requires the DOE to provide staffing, administrative support, data, and other relevant information to the task force to help it carry out its responsibilities.

The task force expires on June 30, 2022.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 117-0