

By Senator Rouson

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Task Force on the Monitoring of
3 Children in Out-of-Home Care; creating s. 39.4092,
4 F.S.; creating the Task Force on the Monitoring of
5 Children in Out-of-Home Care for specified purposes;
6 providing for membership; authorizing the task force
7 to conduct meetings through teleconferences;
8 prohibiting members from being reimbursed for per diem
9 or travel expenses; requiring monthly reports to the
10 secretary of the Department of Children and Families;
11 requiring the task force to annually submit certain
12 recommendations to the Governor and Legislature;
13 providing an effective date.

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15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Section 39.4092, Florida Statutes, is created to
18 read:

19 39.4092 Task Force on the Monitoring of Children in Out-of-
20 Home Care.—

21 (1) The Task Force on the Monitoring of Children in Out-of-
22 Home Care, a task force as defined in s. 20.03(8), is
23 established within the Department of Children and Families. The
24 task force shall be composed of 15 members. Five members shall
25 be appointed by the Governor, five members shall be appointed by
26 the President of the Senate, and five members shall be appointed
27 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The task force
28 shall be composed of representatives from the Department of
29 Children and Families, the Department of Law Enforcement, the

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30 Guardian Ad Litem Program, Safe Kids Florida within the
31 Department of Health, community-based care lead agencies, and
32 Child Protection Teams. Each member shall serve at the pleasure
33 of the appointing official. A vacancy on the task force shall be
34 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

35 (2) The task force shall annually elect a chair from among
36 its members.

37 (3) The task force shall meet as necessary in order to
38 complete its task. The task force may conduct its meetings
39 through teleconferences or other similar electronic means.
40 Members of the task force are not entitled to receive
41 reimbursement for per diem or travel expenses.

42 (4) The task force shall develop a statewide system for
43 collecting information on, and monitoring the whereabouts and
44 safety of, children who have been placed in out-of-home care.
45 The task force shall explore ways to improve the use of
46 technology, training, communication, and cooperation among all
47 entities involved in the child welfare system in order to
48 improve the quality of care of children placed in out-of-home
49 care and to identify children who are at risk for being lost.
50 The task force shall develop statewide uniform guidelines,
51 standards, and protocols to effectively respond when a child in
52 out-of-home care is reported missing.

53 (5) The task force shall submit monthly reports on the
54 number of children who have gone missing, and the reason why, if
55 known, from out-of-home care to the secretary of the Department
56 of Children and Families. Beginning January 1, 2022, and every
57 year thereafter, the task force shall submit its recommendations
58 for developing a statewide monitoring system and uniform

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59 guidelines as required under subsection (4) to the Governor, the
60 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
61 Representatives.

62 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.