

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1237

Introduced by

Representatives Roers Jones, Satrom, Schneider

Senator Clemens

A BILL ~~for an Act; to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota~~
~~Century Code, relating to child sexual abuse education in schools;~~ to provide for a task force on
prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a report to the legislative
management and the governor.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

~~SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
~~and enacted as follows:~~

~~Child sexual abuse education.~~

~~1. The superintendent of public instruction, in collaboration with the department of human~~
~~services, shall develop information and resources regarding child sexual abuse and~~
~~prevention, and shall require each school district and nonpublic school to make the~~
~~information available to students and the parents or legal guardians of the students.~~

~~2. The superintendent of public instruction, in collaboration with the department of human~~
~~services, shall develop a survey to be disseminated to each school in the state~~
~~annually to assess current child sexual abuse prevention and intervention practices.~~
~~Each school district shall report the results of the survey to the superintendent of~~
~~public instruction.~~

~~3. The superintendent shall facilitate an annual meeting to analyze the survey data and~~
~~update the child sexual abuse prevention information, resources, and intervention~~
~~practices. The meeting must include teachers, school administrators, representatives~~
~~of the department of human services, and other stakeholders.~~

~~4. The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules to implement this section.~~

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

1. Beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending September 30, 2024, the task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children is established to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse. The statewide approach must ensure appropriate policies, funding, staffing, resources, and programming are available. The task force shall build upon the efforts of the 2017-18 North Dakota task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children.
2. The task force consists of the following members:
 - a. One member of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate, one member of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader of the house of representatives, and one member of the minority party appointed by the minority leaders of the senate and the house of representatives;
 - b. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee;
 - c. A representative of a children's advocacy center or similar organization that assists in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual and physical abuse cases, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
 - d. A representative of an organization involved in the prevention of child abuse, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
 - e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
 - f. A representative of law enforcement, appointed by the attorney general;
 - g. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee;
 - h. One superintendent from an urban school district and one from a rural school district in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction;
 - i. One principal from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by the North Dakota council of educational leaders;
 - j. One classroom teacher from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by North Dakota united;

k. One school counselor from a high school, middle school, or elementary school in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by the North Dakota school counselors association; and

l. Any other organization or individual the task force deems appropriate.

3. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee, shall convene the task force. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a majority vote of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding officer.

4. The task force shall focus on:

a. Increasing child sexual abuse prevention education for tribal and nontribal children and adults;

b. Increasing interagency data collection, sharing, and collective analysis;

c. Supporting resource development for investigations and prosecutions of child sexual abuse, including the sentencing, supervision, and treatment of sex offenders;

d. Increasing trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors, and families; and

e. Implementing the remaining recommendations of the November 2018 final report of the North Dakota task force on the prevention of child sexual abuse.

5. The recommendations of the task force may include proposals for specific statutory changes, actions the task force deems necessary and appropriate to initiate awareness education of adults and children, and methods to foster cooperation among state agencies and between the state and local governments in adopting and implementing a policy addressing sexual abuse of children which may include:

a. Developmentally appropriate resources for students in prekindergarten through grade twelve;

b. Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse;

c. Educational information to parents or guardians provided in school handbooks regarding the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed assistance, referral, or resource information;

d. Available counseling and resources for students affected by sexual abuse;

- 1 e. Emotional and educational support for a child of abuse to continue to be
- 2 successful in school; and
- 3 f. Any other action deemed appropriate.
- 4 6. Before July first of each even-numbered year, the task force shall submit a report,
- 5 together with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and
- 6 the governor. Before July 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a final report, together
- 7 with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and the
- 8 governor.