



SJ0024

LRB103 30623 LAW 57070 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Children's Mental Health Act initiated the  
3 development of the Screening, Assessment and Support Services  
4 (SASS) program for children and adolescents experiencing a  
5 mental health crisis; and

6 WHEREAS, One in six children and adolescents have mental  
7 health conditions, but only half of those receive mental  
8 health services; and

9 WHEREAS, Undiagnosed, untreated, or inadequately treated  
10 mental illness can significantly interfere with a child's  
11 ability to learn and develop; and

12 WHEREAS, These delays in treatment also lead to worsened  
13 conditions that are harder and costlier to treat; and

14 WHEREAS, Delays in treatment further result in higher  
15 rates of school dropout, unemployment, substance use, arrest,  
16 incarceration, and early death; and

17 WHEREAS, The number of children and adolescents  
18 experiencing a mental health crisis continues to increase,  
19 taxing school and community mental health services; therefore,  
20 be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the  
4 SASS Program Task Force; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be charged with the  
6 following duties:

7           (1) Evaluate the SASS program by county, including but  
8 not limited to Crisis and Referral Entry Services (CARES)  
9 hotline volume, hotline staffing, local agency staffing,  
10 local agency staff turnover, local agency staff response  
11 time, local agency staff training, number of referrals for  
12 inpatient and outpatient services, and availability of  
13 inpatient and outpatient services; and

14           (2) Analyze whether the current funding is sufficient  
15 to meet the needs of the program; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the  
17 following members:

18           (1) One legislative member appointed by the President  
19 of the Senate, who shall serve as co-chair;

20           (2) One legislative member appointed by the Speaker of  
21 the House, who shall serve as co-chair;

22           (3) One legislative member appointed by the Senate  
23 Minority Leader;

1           (4) One legislative member appointed by the House  
2           Minority Leader;

3           (5) The Director of the Department of Children and  
4           Family Services or his or her designee;

5           (6) The Director of the Department of Healthcare and  
6           Family Services or his or her designee;

7           (7) The Secretary of the Department of Human Services  
8           or his or her designee;

9           (8) One member representing a statewide professional  
10          school social worker association, appointed by the  
11          President of the Senate;

12          (9) One member representing a statewide professional  
13          school psychologist association, appointed by the Speaker  
14          of the House;

15          (10) One school social worker or school psychologist  
16          representing a statewide professional teacher  
17          organization, appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;

18          (11) One school social worker or school psychologist  
19          representing a different statewide professional teacher  
20          organization, appointed by the House Minority Leader;

21          (12) One school social worker or school psychologist  
22          representing a professional teachers' organization in a  
23          city having a population exceeding 500,000, appointed by  
24          the President of the Senate;

25          (13) One school district administrator representing a  
26          statewide professional school administrator organization,

1 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

2 (14) One school principal representing a statewide  
3 professional school principal organization, appointed by  
4 the Senate Minority Leader; and

5 (15) One school board member representing a statewide  
6 professional school board organization, appointed by the  
7 House Minority Leader; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That members of the Task Force shall serve  
9 without compensation; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Department of Children and Family  
11 services, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services,  
12 and the Department of Human Services shall provide  
13 administrative support; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall use the collected  
15 information to write a report, including the findings of the  
16 evaluation and policy recommendations that would address  
17 identified program and financial challenges, and deliver this  
18 report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before  
19 June 30, 2024, and, upon the filing of its report, the Task  
20 Force shall be dissolved; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
22 delivered to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the

1 House, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader  
2 of the House, the Director of the Department of Children and  
3 Family Services, the Director of the Department of Healthcare  
4 and Family Services, and the Secretary of the Department of  
5 Human Services.