

1 **TASK FORCE ON FAMILY CONFLICT**

2 **RESOLUTION**

3 2001 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Sponsor: A. Lamont Tyler**

6 **This act creates the Task Force on Family Conflict Resolution. The task force shall be**  
 7 **composed of up to ~~h [16]~~ § [19] 7 § h members and study those issues that have an impact on**  
 7a **families,**

8 **causing conflicts which may lead to the dissolution of the family. The task force will**  
 9 **investigate ways to minimize conflict within the family, make an interim report by December**  
 10 **2001, and a final report of its findings, with any recommendations, to the Health and Human**  
 11 **Services, Judiciary, or Education Interim Committees by November 30, 2002. This act**  
 12 **appropriates ~~h [\$32,000]~~ \$36,500 h in fiscal year 2000-01 and ~~h [\$32,000]~~ \$36,500 h in fiscal year**  
 12a **2001-02 to the House**

13 **of Representatives, Senate, and the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to**  
 14 **cover expenses relating to the task force. This act is repealed on December 1, 2002.**

15 This act enacts uncodified material.

16 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

17 Section 1. **Task Force on Family Conflict Resolution -- Creation -- Membership --**  
 18 **Quorum -- Compensation -- Staff.**

19 (1) (a) There is created the Task Force on Family Conflict Resolution consisting of up to  
 20 h ~~[16]~~ 19 h members:

21 (i) h ~~[two]~~ UP TO THREE h members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate,  
 21a no more than h ~~[one]~~ TWO h  
 22 of whom may be from the same political party;

23 (ii) h ~~[two]~~ UP TO FOUR h members of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
 23a speaker of the House

24 of Representatives, no more than h ~~[one]~~ TWO h of whom may be from the same political party;

25 h ~~[(iii)] two nonlegislative members of the Judicial Council's Standing Committee on Children~~  
 26 ~~and Family Law;~~

27 § ~~[(iv)] (iii) h a current or past chair of the Utah State Bar Family Law Section appointed jointly~~  
 27a ~~by] §~~



28 § ~~the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives;~~  
 29 ~~h [(v)] the director of the Office of Guardian ad Litem or his designee;~~  
 30 ~~(vi)] iv) h a trained professional h COUNSELOR h in the field of family mediation processes~~  
 30a ~~and impacts of divorce~~  
 31 ~~on children jointly appointed by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of~~  
 32 ~~Representatives;~~  
 33 ~~h [(vii)] a curriculum specialist from the State Office of Education appointed by the state~~  
 34 ~~superintendent of education;~~  
 35 ~~(viii) the director of the Division of Child and Family Services or his designee;~~  
 36 ~~(ix)] (v) h two parents - one married and one single - h [with a demonstrated interest in public~~  
 37 ~~policy affecting children and families, to be selected by the remaining members of the task force~~  
 38 ~~not later than the second meeting of the task force] TO BE JOINTLY APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT~~  
 38a ~~OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES h ;~~  
 39 ~~h [(x)] (vi) h the director or his designee of a child and family advocacy organization jointly~~  
 40 ~~appointed by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives; and~~  
 41 ~~h [(xi)] (vii) h h [one member] TWO MEMBERS h from the religious community jointly~~  
 41a ~~appointed by the president of the~~  
 42 ~~Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives.~~  
 43 ~~(b) By majority vote, the task force may designate up to h [three] FIVE h additional~~  
 43a ~~members from~~  
 44 ~~the general public with expertise in areas the task force considers beneficial to its area of study.]~~  
 44a ~~(iii) THE TASK FORCE MAY DESIGNATE NON-VOTING MEMBERS AND ADVISORS FROM THE~~  
 44b ~~GENERAL PUBLIC AND AGENCIES WITH EXPERTISE IN AREAS THE TASK FORCE CONSIDERS~~  
 44c ~~BENEFICIAL TO ITS AREA OF STUDY. §~~  
 45 ~~(2) (a) The president of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate appointed under~~  
 46 ~~Subsection (1)(a)(i) as a cochair of the task force.~~  
 47 ~~(b) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the House~~  
 48 ~~of Representatives appointed under Subsection (1)(a)(ii) as a cochair of the task force.~~  
 49 ~~(3) A majority of the members of the task force constitute a quorum. The action of a~~  
 50 ~~majority of a quorum at a meeting constitutes the action of the task force.~~  
 51 ~~(4) (a) Salaries and expenses of the members of the task force who are legislators shall be~~  
 52 ~~paid in accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rule 15.03.~~  
 53 ~~(b) Members of the task force who are not legislators may not receive compensation for~~  
 54 ~~their work associated with the task force, but may receive per diem and expenses incurred as a~~  
 55 ~~member of the task force at the rates established by the Division of Finance under Sections~~  
 56 ~~63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.~~  
 57 ~~(5) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support to~~  
 58 ~~the task force.~~

Section 2. **Duties -- Interim report.**

(1) With the awareness that parents and their children are most likely to achieve their full potential in their own stable, loving family, that intense, unresolved emotional conflict in domestic relations is destructive to children and their families, and that out-of-court conflict resolution processes can prevent or resolve family conflict both before formal court processes are invoked and after children and families have left the court system, the task force shall review and make recommendations on the following issues:

(a) the availability of support services, whether from private or public sources, for Utah families involved in divorce or related family conflicts, including education about options other than divorce, counseling, financial management, parenting skills, nonadversarial dispute resolution, postdivorce counseling for families, and legal services related to conflict resolution;

(b) the status of all Utah statutes, programs, and policies that either alleviate or accentuate the negative impact of divorce or conflict on children, along with recommendations for diminishing negative influences, reinforcing positive influences, and implementing new programs to minimize the adverse effect of divorce or conflict on children;

(c) whether through private or public sources, the statewide availability and quality of education for children, premarital couples, and parents about financial management, child development, parenting skills, healthy relationships, and peaceful conflict resolution and the costs of providing such education where it is not available;

(d) the legitimate role of state government with respect to the education described in Subsection (1)(c) and the resolution of conflict within families, including a survey of any successful efforts by other states in these areas;

(e) potential nonpublic funding sources for educational and counseling programs;

(f) methods of coordinating various organizations working on conflict resolution and education for families, and of providing simple, readily accessible public information about resources and services through a variety of information sources and outlets; and

(g) other issues related to family conflict resolution.

(2) A final report, including any proposed legislation shall be presented to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee, the Judiciary Interim Committee, or the Education Interim Committee before November 30, 2001.

Section 3. **Appropriation.**

(1) There is appropriated from Revenue Transfers-Workforce Services for fiscal year 2000-01:

(a) \$3,000 to the Senate to pay for the compensation and expenses of senators on the task force;

(b) \$3,000 to the House of Representatives to pay for the compensation and expenses of representatives on the task force; and

(c) \$26,000 to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to pay for staffing the task force.

(2) There is appropriated from Revenue Transfers-Workforce Services for fiscal year 2001-02:

(a) h ~~[\$3,000]~~ \$4,500 h to the Senate to pay for the compensation and expenses of senators on the task force;

(b) h ~~[\$3,000]~~ \$6,000 h to the House of Representatives to pay for the compensation and expenses of representatives on the task force; and

(c) \$26,000 to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to pay for staffing the task force.

(3) These funds shall be nonlapsing.

Section 4. **Repeal date.**

This act is repealed December 1, 2002.

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### Legislative Review Note as of 11-13-00 12:50 PM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel