

HB 405 – AS INTRODUCED

2013 SESSION

13-0361
05/10

HOUSE BILL **405**

AN ACT establishing a committee to study issues related to children and families.

SPONSORS: Rep. C. McGuire, Merr 29; Rep. Jones, Straf 24

COMMITTEE: Children and Family Law

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study issues related to children and families.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Thirteen

AN ACT establishing a committee to study issues related to children and families.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study issues related to children
2 and families.

3 2 Membership and Compensation.

4 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

5 (a) Five members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the
6 children and family law committee and one of whom shall be a member of the judiciary committee,
7 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

8 (b) One member of the senate, appointed by the senate president.

9 II. Legislative members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
10 attending to the duties of the committee.

11 3 Duties.

12 I. The committee shall hold public meetings to receive testimony from citizens who have
13 concerns with the state performance on issues relating to children and families, including, but not
14 limited to, foster care, child support assignments and collections, child custody in cases of divorce or
15 unmarried parents, and child welfare. The committee shall hold no less than one meeting within
16 each county of the state, for the purpose of taking public testimony on the issues of concern, striving
17 to attract and accommodate as many members of the public as reasonable. Public meetings shall be
18 given public notice no less than 10 days prior.

19 II. The committee shall solicit information and testimony from the New Hampshire Coalition
20 Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and any other individual or organization with expertise or
21 experience the committee deems relevant to its study.

22 4 Chairperson; Secretary; Quorum.

23 I. The members of the committee shall elect, by majority vote, a chairperson and a secretary
24 from among the members. The secretary shall be responsible for collecting, reproducing,
25 distributing, and preserving all data collected by the committee including public comments, the
26 preparation of minutes of committee meetings, and managing the public dissemination of that data,
27 as necessary, via news releases to the daily newspapers, and via a Internet website dedicated to the
28 committee.

29 II. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house member. The
30 first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three
31 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

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1 III. No state agency may charge a fee for providing meeting space for the activities of this
2 committee.

3 5 Report. On or before November 4, 2014, the committee shall prepare a final report outlining
4 the concerns of the public and making recommendations thereto, including, but not limited to, any
5 recommendations for future legislation. The final report shall be distributed to the chief justice of
6 the supreme court, the administrative judge of the superior court, and the administrative judge of
7 the family court, the commissioner of the department of health and human services, the governor,
8 the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the executive council, the
9 state library, and each member of the committee. Each member of this committee will be entitled to
10 submit a “minority report” or personal comments for inclusion in the final report.

11 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.