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HOUSE BILL 491

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Gail C. Beam

AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN; CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY METHODS TO  
DIVERT CHILDREN FROM A LIFE OF CRIME; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. TASK FORCE CREATED--MEMBERSHIP--DUTIES.--

A. The department of health shall establish a task  
force to study programs that serve to divert children from a  
life of crime.

B. The task force shall include two representatives  
of the state department of public education; a representative  
of the children, youth and families department; a  
representative of the department of health; a representative of  
the human services department; a designee appointed by the  
supreme court; a representative of the county maternal and  
child health planning council as provided for in the County

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1 Maternal and Child Health Plan Act; three public members from  
2 interested child-oriented organizations; and a law enforcement  
3 representative. All task force members and the chair shall be  
4 appointed by the secretary of health.

5 C. The task force shall examine programs providing  
6 opportunities to divert children from a life of crime,  
7 including:

8 (1) home visits by child care professionals  
9 starting before birth and continuing for the first two years of  
10 a child's life;

11 (2) training for parents and therapy for  
12 families with school-age children who have exhibited  
13 inappropriate aggression or otherwise demonstrated unhealthy  
14 behavior in school;

15 (3) creating incentives, including cash, to  
16 induce disadvantaged students to complete their education; and

17 (4) monitoring and supervising youth who have  
18 exhibited delinquent behavior.

19 D. The task force shall make a preliminary report  
20 to the legislative education study committee, the legislative  
21 finance committee and the interim legislative health and human  
22 services committee at their respective October 2003 meetings  
23 and shall present its final report, including legislative  
24 recommendations, to the same committees by October 2004.

25 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- One hundred thirty-five

. 144204. 1

1 thousand dollars (\$135,000) is appropriated from the general  
2 fund to the department of health for expenditure in fiscal  
3 years 2004 and 2005 to support the work of the task force  
4 created in Section 1 of this act. Any unexpended or  
5 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2005  
6 shall revert to the general fund.

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