

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SJM 23

50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011

Tracking Number: .185406.1

Short Title: Academic Champions for Children Task Force

Sponsor(s): Senator John Pinto

Analyst: Kevin Force

Date: March 7, 2011

Bill Summary:

SJM 23 asks the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to convene a task force that will:

- develop a process to train, educate, and empower parents, caregivers, social workers, and behavioral therapists to become “academic champions for children” and therefore reduce aggressive behavior in schools;
- develop recommended changes to the OptumHealth contract to ensure adequate funding for training and support systems to support training academic champions;
- consider establishing a pilot program;
- report its findings to the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee and the Governor by October 2011; and
- report its findings to all the members of the Legislature when the Second Session of the Fiftieth Legislature convenes.

Finally, SJM 23 requests that the membership of the task force include representatives from:

- the Public Education Department;
- the Children, Youth and Families Department; and
- other appropriate agencies and individuals.

Fiscal Impact:

As a memorial, SJM 23 does not contain an appropriation.

Background:

The Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative was created in 2004 to:

- develop a statewide system of behavioral health care that promotes the behavioral health and well-being of children, individuals, and families;
- encourage a seamless system of care that is accessible and continuously available; and
- emphasize prevention and early intervention, resiliency, recovery, and rehabilitation.

Related Bills:

HJM 23 *Academic Champions Task Force* (Identical)