

SENATE BILL 1922

By Yager

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33;  
Title 34; Title 37 and Title 49, relative to funding  
education services for special needs populations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) The task force on the equitable and adequate funding of education services for special needs populations is created to examine the state's funding mechanism and the levels of financial support for providers of education services to children who are:

- (1) At-risk;
- (2) In the custody of the department of children's services;
- (3) Receiving residential care for mental and behavioral health

conditions; or

- (4) Receiving homebound services.

(b) The task force is composed of the following eight (8) members:

(1) A member of the house of representatives, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(2) A member of the senate, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(3) A representative from the department of children's services, to be appointed by the commissioner of children's services;

(4) A representative from the department of education, to be appointed by the commissioner of education;

(5) A representative from the department of mental health and substance abuse services, to be appointed by the commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services;

(6) A representative from the office of research and education accountability within the office of the comptroller of the treasury, to be appointed by the comptroller of the treasury;

(7) A public member representing a private provider of community or residential treatment services for children, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(8) A public member representing a family with at least one (1) child with special needs recommended by the Tennessee Alliance for Children and Families, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate.

(c) Members of the task force must be appointed by July 1, 2020.

(d) Members of the task force serve without compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses. Reimbursement for travel expenses must conform with the comprehensive state travel regulations promulgated by the commissioner of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(e) The department of children's services shall provide administrative assistance and support services to the task force.

(f)

(1) The task force shall submit a report on the adequacy of the current funding model for education services for special needs populations to the general assembly by December 31, 2020, at which time the task force ceases to exist.

(2) The report must make recommendations to improve the funding mechanism for education services and to appropriately reimburse providers of education services. The report may include recommendations for improving the quality and oversight of education services from providers.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.