

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

**H.B. 385**  
**Mar 20, 2013**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE DRH10160-LL-78 (02/26)

Short Title: Youth Accountability Task Force. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Stevens.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY PLANNING TASK FORCE  
3 IN THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
4 SAFETY AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A PILOT TRANSITIONAL HOUSING  
5 PROGRAM.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Task Force established. – There is established the Youth  
8 Accountability Planning Task Force within the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department  
9 of Public Safety.

10 **SECTION 2.** Membership. – The Task Force shall consist of 21 members as  
11 follows, with the members designated in subdivisions (1) through (8) of this section serving ex  
12 officio:

- 13 (1) The Secretary of the Department of Public Safety.
- 14 (2) The Chief Deputy Secretary of the Division of Juvenile Justice of the  
15 Department of Public Safety.
- 16 (3) The Chief Deputy Secretary of the Division of Adult Correction of the  
17 Department of Public Safety.
- 18 (4) The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- 19 (5) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.
- 20 (6) The Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- 21 (7) The Secretary of the Department of Administration, or a designee having  
22 knowledge of programs and services for youth and young adults.
- 23 (8) The Juvenile Defender in the Office of Indigent Defense.
- 24 (9) One representative from the Governor's Crime Commission appointed by the  
25 Governor.
- 26 (10) One representative from the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory  
27 Commission appointed by the Governor.
- 28 (11) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of  
29 the House of Representatives.
- 30 (12) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
31 Senate.
- 32 (13) Two chief court counselors appointed by the Governor, one to be from a  
33 rural county and one from an urban county.
- 34 (14) One present or former chief district court judge or superior court judge  
35 appointed by the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court.
- 36 (15) One police chief appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.



1 (16) One district attorney appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
2 Representatives.

3 Appointments to the Task Force shall be made no later than October 1, 2013. A  
4 vacancy in the Task Force, or a vacancy as chair of the Task Force, resulting from the  
5 resignation of a member or otherwise, shall be filled in the same manner in which the original  
6 appointment was made.

7 **SECTION 3.** Chair; meetings. – The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the  
8 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each designate one member to serve as cochair  
9 of the Task Force. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

10 **SECTION 4.** The Office of the Governor shall provide staff to the Task Force at  
11 the request of the Task Force.

12 **SECTION 5.** Cooperation by government agencies. – The Task Force may call  
13 upon any department, agency, institution, or officer of the State or any political subdivision  
14 thereof for facilities, data, or other assistance.

15 **SECTION 6.** Duties of Task Force. – The Task Force shall study:

- 16 (1) The Educational Services Section of the Division of Juvenile Justice to  
17 determine the best structure for delivering these mandatory services to a  
18 delinquent population. The study shall identify advantages and risks of  
19 changing the delivery, as well as make recommendations to deal with any  
20 identified risks.
- 21 (2) Whether the educational offerings available in youth development centers  
22 and detention centers provide adequate vocational training for the  
23 population.
- 24 (3) The adequacy of transitional housing for delinquent juveniles exiting youth  
25 development centers.
- 26 (4) The feasibility of providing transitional housing for juveniles exiting youth  
27 development centers with children transitioning from foster care to  
28 independent housing.
- 29 (5) Whether the Tarheel Challenge program operated by the North Carolina  
30 National Guard should be expanded so that the program can be an alternative  
31 for all juvenile dispositional levels.
- 32 (6) The feasibility of providing tuition waivers in the Community College  
33 System for juveniles committed to youth development centers and in  
34 post-release supervision status.
- 35 (7) The adequacy of dispositional options available to Juvenile Court for status  
36 offenders.
- 37 (8) Any other issue deemed by the Task Force necessary to complete its work.

38 **SECTION 7.** Consultation. – The Task Force shall consult with appropriate State  
39 departments, agencies, and board representatives on issues related to juvenile justice  
40 administration.

41 **SECTION 8.** Report. – The Task Force shall submit a final report to the 2013  
42 General Assembly when it reconvenes in 2014. The Task Force shall terminate upon filing its  
43 final report.

44 **SECTION 9.** Funding. – The Task Force may apply for, receive, and accept grants  
45 of non-State funds or other contributions as appropriate to assist in the performance of its  
46 duties. The Division of Juvenile Justice may also use funds appropriated to it to carry out the  
47 study and devise the implementation plan.

48 **SECTION 10.** Staffing, services, and supplies. – The Division of Juvenile Justice  
49 shall provide professional and clerical staff and other services and supplies, including meeting  
50 space, as needed for the Task Force to carry out its duties in an effective manner.

1           **SECTION 11.** There is appropriated to the Division of Juvenile Justice of the  
2 Department of Public Safety the sum of six hundred fifty thousand nonrecurring dollars  
3 (\$650,000) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and six hundred fifty thousand nonrecurring dollars  
4 (\$650,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to implement a pilot program for transitional housing  
5 for juveniles exiting youth development centers. The Division shall collaborate in this effort  
6 with the Division of Social Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to  
7 determine if populations served by the respective divisions can be served adequately through a  
8 single transitional housing model. The Division may contract with appropriate service  
9 providers to implement this pilot program as a public-private partnership.

10           **SECTION 12.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2013.