

**House File 2572 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2572  
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2174)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for a task force to address legal services for  
2 indigent parties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 602.1615 Legal services for  
2 indigent parties task force.

3 1. The judicial branch shall establish a task force that  
4 shall do all of the following:

5 a. Identify how legal services are delivered in this state  
6 to indigent parties in criminal, juvenile, and child abuse and  
7 neglect proceedings statewide.

8 b. Recommend improvements to the delivery of legal services  
9 to indigent parties.

10 c. Recommend methods for providing legal services in cases  
11 involving conflicts of interest where local public defenders  
12 may be unable to accept representation.

13 d. Evaluate and recommend ways to ensure indigent parties  
14 receive competent representation.

15 e. Identify potential funding options to support the  
16 delivery of legal services for indigent parties.

17 f. Identify strategies to increase the number of qualified  
18 attorneys needed to provide legal representation to all  
19 residents of this state.

20 2. The task force shall consist of the following members:

21 a. A member appointed by the chief justice of the supreme  
22 court.

23 b. A member appointed by the governor.

24 c. A member appointed by the attorney general.

25 d. A member appointed by the state public defender.

26 e. A member in good standing with the Iowa state bar  
27 association appointed by the association.

28 f. A member in good standing with the Iowa state bar  
29 association who has been licensed to practice for five years or  
30 less appointed by the association.

31 g. A member in good standing with the Iowa association for  
32 justice appointed by the association.

33 h. A county attorney appointed by the Iowa county attorneys  
34 association.

35 i. A member appointed by the dean of the Drake university

1 law school.

2 *j.* A member appointed by the dean of the university of Iowa  
3 college of law.

4 *k.* A member of the house of representatives appointed by the  
5 speaker of the house.

6 *l.* A member of the senate appointed by the majority leader  
7 of the senate.

8 3. For the period beginning July 1, 2026, and ending  
9 November 15, 2030, the task force shall convene at least once  
10 each calendar year, and may convene more frequently as deemed  
11 necessary by a majority vote of the task force.

12 4. For the period beginning July 1, 2026, and ending  
13 November 15, 2030, the judicial branch shall submit a report  
14 to the governor and the general assembly containing the task  
15 force's findings and recommendations on or before November 15  
16 annually.

17 5. Members of the task force shall serve without  
18 compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses in  
19 the performance of their duties. Task force members who are  
20 members of the general assembly shall be paid in accordance  
21 with section 2.32A. The remaining task force members shall be  
22 reimbursed from moneys appropriated for the purpose of this  
23 section or otherwise appropriated to the judicial branch.

24 6. This section is repealed November 15, 2030, and the task  
25 force shall dissolve on that date.

26 EXPLANATION

27 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
28 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

29 This bill directs the judicial branch to establish a task  
30 force to investigate the statewide delivery of legal services  
31 to indigent parties in criminal, juvenile, and child abuse  
32 and neglect proceedings and to develop recommendations to  
33 improve service delivery, address public defender conflicts of  
34 interest, ensure competent representation, identify sustainable  
35 funding, and increase the number of qualified attorneys

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1 available to serve indigent Iowans.

2     The required members of the task force are specified in the  
3 bill. The bill provides that for the period beginning July 1,  
4 2026, and ending November 15, 2030, the task force must convene  
5 at least once per year. The bill requires the judicial branch  
6 to submit a report to the governor and the general assembly by  
7 November 15 each year through 2030.