



Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

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10200SB0929sam001

LRB102 04750 KTG 25358 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 929

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 929 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Task
5 Force on Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds the
7 following:

8 (1) In Illinois, over 200,000 children under the age
9 of 18 are living with and being cared for by more than
10 100,000 grandparents.

11 (2) Grandparent caregivers, the majority of whom are
12 single women ranging in age from 30 to 90 with an average
13 annual income of \$15,000 to \$25,000, typically raise one
14 to 2 grandchildren and have been doing so for 5 years or
15 longer.

16 (3) Factors contributing to the growing number of

1 grandparents raising grandchildren include, but are not
2 limited to, alcohol and drug abuse, neglect, abuse,
3 abandonment, death of a parent, HIV/AIDS, divorce,
4 unemployment, poverty, parental incarceration, teen
5 pregnancy, and welfare reform.

6 (4) Due to their assumed caregiving responsibilities,
7 many grandparents deplete their savings and retirement
8 income and face severe financial risk and economic strains
9 while struggling to pay for expenses related to caring for
10 their grandchildren, such as, but not limited to, food,
11 diapers, clothing, child care, medical treatment, legal
12 assistance, and housing needs.

13 (5) Many grandparents take custody of and raise their
14 grandchildren after a harmful incident has been suffered
15 by their grandchildren that has caused the Department of
16 Children and Family Services to designate them to be "at
17 risk".

18 (6) Many other grandparents take preventive measures
19 by choosing to take custody of and raise their
20 grandchildren prior to their grandchildren suffering a
21 harmful incident when they recognize that their
22 grandchildren's health, safety, and welfare are at risk.

23 (7) Grandparents who take custody of their
24 grandchildren prior to the grandchildren's suffering of a
25 harmful incident are ineligible for foster care funding
26 and assistance from the Department of Children and Family

1 Services.

2 (8) The only financial assistance option for this
3 group of grandparents is "child only" grants from the
4 Department of Human Services' Temporary Assistance to
5 Needy Families (TANF) program.

6 (9) The Department of Children and Family Services'
7 foster care program provides monthly financial assistance
8 that is 3 to 4 times greater than the TANF "child only"
9 grants, and it also provides counseling, child care
10 support, education services, college scholarships, and
11 health services.

12 (10) Grandparents raising grandchildren who are not in
13 the foster care program are as valuable to the
14 grandchildren and to the State as those who are in the
15 foster care program.

16 (11) A significant function of government is to
17 promote the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

18 Section 10. Task Force on Grandparents Raising their
19 Grandchildren.

20 (a) The Task Force on Grandparents Raising their
21 Grandchildren is created and shall be comprised of 10 members
22 of the General Assembly appointed as follows:

23 (1) Three members of the Senate, one of whom shall be
24 co-chairperson, appointed by the President of the Senate.

25 (2) Two members of the Senate appointed by the

1 Minority Leader of the Senate.

2 (3) Three members of the House of Representatives, one
3 of whom shall be co-chairperson, appointed by the Speaker
4 of the House of Representatives.

5 (4) Two members of the House of Representatives
6 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
7 Representatives.

8 (b) Task Force members shall serve without compensation.
9 The Department on Aging shall provide administrative support
10 to the Task Force.

11 Section 15. Agency reports. The Department on Aging, in
12 collaboration with the Departments of Children and Family
13 Services, Healthcare and Family Services, and Human Services
14 and any other relevant agencies, shall issue a report to the
15 Task Force no later than July 1, 2021 that assesses existing
16 State and federal assistance programs that include the
17 following:

18 (1) a review of all guaranteed benefits and other
19 available support provided to grandparents through the
20 Department of Children and Family Services' foster care
21 program, including counseling, child care support,
22 education services, college scholarships, and health
23 services; the Children's Health Insurance Program; the
24 Covering ALL KIDS Health Insurance program; and other
25 relevant programs;

1 (2) a review of all guaranteed benefits and other
2 available support provided to grandparents through the
3 Department of Human Services' Temporary Assistance for
4 Needy Families (TANF) program and other relevant programs;

5 (3) a review of all other means of grandparent-related
6 support provided by State-funded and federally funded
7 programs; and

8 (4) the estimated cost to the State if grandparents
9 were not willing to or refused to take custody of and raise
10 their grandchildren.

11 Section 20. Public hearings. The Task Force shall hold
12 public hearings throughout the State regarding services needed
13 by and available to grandparents raising their grandchildren.

14 Section 25. Task Force reports. The Task Force shall issue
15 a report to the General Assembly no later than January 1, 2022
16 that makes recommendations on changes that should be made to
17 services provided to grandparents raising their grandchildren
18 through the foster care and TANF "child-only" grant programs.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
20 becoming law."