



2023 South Dakota Legislature

House Bill 1064

Introduced by: The Committee on Judiciary at the request of the Chief Justice

1 **An Act to require the Unified Judicial System to assemble a task force to address**
 2 **the provision of legal services to indigent parties within the South Dakota**
 3 **court system.**

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

5 **Section 1.** The Unified Judicial System shall assemble a task force consisting of the following
 6 thirteen members to examine the delivery of legal services to indigent parties in the South
 7 Dakota court system.

8 **Section 2.** The task force shall be composed of four members appointed by the chief justice
 9 of the Supreme Court, three county representatives appointed by the Association of County
 10 Commissioners, two members in good standing of the South Dakota Bar Association with
 11 experience in criminal, juvenile, and child abuse and neglect cases appointed by the president
 12 of the State Bar Association, two legislators, one appointed by the speaker of the House of
 13 Representatives and one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, and a state's
 14 attorney and a member of the attorney general's office appointed by the attorney general.

15 **Section 3.** The task force examination must include the following:

- 16 (1) Identifying how legal services are delivered in South Dakota to indigent parties in
 17 criminal, juvenile, and child abuse and neglect proceedings statewide;
 18 (2) Recommending ways to improve the delivery of legal services to indigent parties;
 19 (3) Recommending methods to provide services for conflict cases where local public
 20 defenders may be unable to take cases;
 21 (4) Addressing how to ensure competent representation is provided to indigent parties;
 22 and
 23 (5) Identifying potential funding options to ensure delivery of legal services for indigent
 24 parties.

1 **Section 4.** The Unified Judicial System shall present findings of the task force to the Governor
2 and to the Legislature no later than November 15, 2023.

3 **Section 5.** All expenses incurred in carrying out the work of the task force shall be paid out
4 of funds appropriated or otherwise provided to the Unified Judicial System.