AN ACT

ENTITLED, An Act to establish the Jolene's Law Task Force to study the impact of sexual abuse of children in this state and to make recommendations to the Legislature on policies to effectively address the issue.

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

Section 1. That chapter 2-6 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as follows:

There is hereby created the Jolene's Law Task Force to study the impact of sexual abuse of children in this state and to make recommendations to the Legislature on policies to effectively address the issue. The task force shall consist of the following fifteen members:

(1) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint two members of the Senate;

(2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members of the House of Representatives;

(3) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint the following four members:

(a) A child abuse pediatrician whose experience and clinical practice is associated with a child advocacy center in the state;

(b) A representative associated with a non-profit organization that provides training and education aimed at the prevention of sexual abuse of children;

(c) A representative from a child advocacy center in the state with experience serving children who have been subjected to sexual abuse;

(d) A person who was a victim of sexual abuse as a child;

(4) The Speaker of the House shall appoint the following four members:

(a) A representative from a tribal organization in this state with experience and training in the area of sexual abuse of children;

(b) A representative of a law enforcement organization in the state with direct

experience working with child sexual abuse investigations;

(c) A victim's advocate who works directly with child victims of sexual abuse; and

(d) A mental health professional with experience and training using trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy in the area of child sexual abuse;

(5) A representative from the Department of Social Services;

(6) A representative from the Department of Health;

(7) A representative from the Department of Education.

Section 2. That chapter 2-6 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as follows:

The initial appointments shall be made no later than July 1, 2014, and shall serve until January 1, 2015, which shall be the end date for the task force. If there is a vacancy on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Section 3. That chapter 2-6 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as follows:

The task force shall study the impact of sexual abuse of children in the state and make a report to the Legislature on the prevalence of sexual abuse of children in the state and make policy recommendations to address the following areas:

(1) Methods to increase awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children, including warning signs that may indicate that a child is the victim of sexual abuse and the actions and language a child may use to express that they are a victim of sexual abuse;

(2) The actions that a child who is the victim of sexual abuse could take to obtain assistance and intervention;

(3) How to best provide support and assistance to children who are victims of sexual abuse;

(4) Policies to encourage adults to take responsibility for the protection of children from sexual abuse and to respond appropriately when sexual abuse of a child is suspected;

(5) Collaboration of public and private organizations to assist in the recognition and

prevention of sexual abuse of children, using research and evidence based practice; and

(6) Any other recommendation the task force deems appropriate in addressing this issue.

Section 4. Jolene's Law Task Force shall be under the supervision of the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council and staffed and funded as an interim legislative committee, not to exceed twenty-one thousand dollars.

An Act to establish the Jolene's Law Task Force to study the impact of sexual abuse of children in this state and to make recommendations to the Legislature on policies to effectively address the issue.

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I certify that the attached Act originated in the

SENATE as Bill No. 154

_____
Secretary of the Senate

_____
President of the Senate

Attest:

_____
Secretary of the Senate

_____
Speaker of the House

Attest:

_____
Chief Clerk

Senate Bill No. 154
File No. ____
Chapter No. _____

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Received at this Executive Office this _____ day of _____ ,

20____ at _____ M.

By _____
for the Governor

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The attached Act is hereby approved this _____ day of _____ , A.D., 20___

_____
Governor

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STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,
ss.
Office of the Secretary of State

Filed _____ , 20___
at _____ o'clock __ M.

_____
Secretary of State

By _____
Asst. Secretary of State