

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1599

To establish a Missing and Exploited Children Task Force.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 28 (legislative day, OCTOBER 13), 1993

Mr. DECONCINI (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. HATCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a Missing and Exploited Children Task Force.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Missing and Exploited
5 Children Task Force Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the victimization of children in our Nation
9 has reached epidemic proportions; recent Depart-
10 ment of Justice figures show that—

1 (A) 4,600 children were abducted by non-
2 family members;

3 (B) two-thirds of the abductions of chil-
4 dren by non-family members involve sexual as-
5 sault;

6 (C) more than 354,000 children were ab-
7 ducted by family members; and

8 (D) 451,000 children ran away;

9 (2) while some local law enforcement officials
10 have been successful in the investigation and resolu-
11 tion of such crimes, most local agencies lack the per-
12 sonnel and resources necessary to give this problem
13 the full attention it requires;

14 (3) a majority of the Nation's 17,000 police de-
15 partments have 10 or fewer officers; and

16 (4) locating missing children requires a coordi-
17 nated law enforcement effort; supplementing local
18 law enforcement agencies with a team of assigned
19 active Federal agents will allow Federal agents to
20 pool their resources and expertise in order to assist
21 local agents in the investigation of the Nation's most
22 difficult cases involving missing children.

23 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

24 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force
25 comprised of law enforcement officers from pertinent Fed-

1 eral agencies to work with the National Center for Missing
2 and Exploited Children (referred to as the “Center”) and
3 coordinate the provision of Federal law enforcement re-
4 sources to assist State and local authorities in investigat-
5 ing the most difficult cases of missing and exploited
6 children.

7 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.**

8 Title IV of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Pre-
9 vention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5771 et seq.) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) by redesignating sections 407 and 408 as
12 sections 408 and 409, respectively; and

13 (2) by inserting after section 406 the following
14 new section:

15 “TASK FORCE

16 “SEC. 407. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-
17 lished a Missing and Exploited Children’s Task Force (re-
18 ferred to as the “Task Force”).

19 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall in-
21 clude at least 2 members from each of—

22 “(A) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

23 “(B) the Secret Service;

24 “(C) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and
25 Firearms;

26 “(D) the United States Customs Service;

1 “(E) the Postal Inspection Service;

2 “(F) the United States Marshals Service;

3 and

4 “(G) the Drug Enforcement Administra-
5 tion.

6 “(2) CHIEF.—A representative of the Federal
7 Bureau of Investigation (in addition to the members
8 of the Task Force selected under paragraph (1)(A))
9 shall act as chief of the Task Force.

10 “(3) SELECTION.—(A) The Director of the
11 Federal Bureau of Investigation shall select the chief
12 of the Task Force.

13 “(B) The heads of the agencies described in
14 paragraph (1) shall submit to the chief of the Task
15 Force a list of at least 5 prospective Task Force
16 members, and the chief shall select 2, or such great-
17 er number as may be agreeable to an agency head,
18 as Task Force members.

19 “(4) PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.—The
20 members of the Task Force shall be law enforcement
21 personnel selected for their expertise that would en-
22 able them to assist in the investigation of cases of
23 missing and exploited children.

24 “(5) STATUS.—A member of the Task Force
25 shall remain an employee of his or her respective

1 agency for all purposes (including the purpose of
2 performance review), and his or her service on the
3 Task Force shall be without interruption or loss of
4 civil service privilege or status and shall be on a
5 nonreimbursable basis.

6 “(6) PERIOD OF SERVICE.—(A) Subject to sub-
7 paragraph (B), a member shall serve on the Task
8 Force for a period of 1 year, and may be selected
9 to a renewal of service for 1 additional year.

10 “(B) The chief of the Task Force may at any
11 time request the head of an agency described in
12 paragraph (1) to submit a list of 5 prospective Task
13 Force members to replace a member of the Task
14 Force, for the purpose of maintaining a Task Force
15 membership that will be able to meet the demands
16 of its caseload.

17 “(c) SUPPORT.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
19 General Services Administration, in coordination
20 with the heads of the agencies described in sub-
21 section (b)(1), shall provide the Task Force office
22 space and administrative and support services, such
23 office space to be in close proximity to the office of
24 the Center, so as to enable the Task Force to coordi-

1 nate its activities with that of the Center on a day-
2 to-day basis.

3 “(2) LEGAL GUIDANCE.—The Attorney General
4 shall assign a United States Attorney to provide
5 legal guidance, as needed, to members of the Task
6 Force.

7 “(d) PURPOSE.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—(A) The purpose of the
9 Task Force shall be to make available the combined
10 resources and expertise of the agencies described in
11 paragraph (1) to assist State and local governments
12 in the most difficult missing and exploited child
13 cases nationwide, as identified by the chief of the
14 Task Force from time to time, in consultation with
15 the Center, and as many additional cases as re-
16 sources permit, including the provision of assistance
17 to State and local investigators on location in the
18 field.

19 “(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The role of the
20 Task Force in any investigation shall be to provide
21 advice and technical assistance and to make avail-
22 able the resources of the agencies described in sub-
23 section (b)(1); the Task Force shall not take a lead-
24 ership role in any such investigation.

1 “(e) TRAINING.—Members of the Task Force shall
2 receive a course of training, provided by the Center, in
3 matters relating to cases of missing and exploited children.

4 “(f) CROSS-DESIGNATION OF TASK FORCE MEM-
5 BERS.—The Attorney General shall cross-designate the
6 members of the Task Force with jurisdiction to enforce
7 Federal law related to child abduction to the extent nec-
8 essary to accomplish the purposes of this section.”.

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