

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB1979
Version:	SUBPCS1
Request Number:	14796
Author:	Rep. Ranson
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Research Analysis

The proposed subcommittee substitute for HB 1979 amends the membership of the Task Force, maintaining the membership at 17 people. The subpcs changes the dates due of the initial and final reports with the initial report being due by November 2027 and the final report by November 2028. The subpcs also adds an analysis of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's policies to the analysis the Task Force must conduct.

HB 1979 creates the Early Childhood Task Force which will study and make recommendations to improve access to increase the quantity of high-quality early childhood services. The measure provides for the membership of the 17-member Task Force. The Task Force will elect a chair and vice-chair, or co-chairs, who will then establish rules for the meetings and conducting business. A honorary chair may be selected to serve in a ceremonial capacity, not as a voting member, but in an appropriate advisory role. The Task Force must develop and submit an initial and final report by November 2025.

Members will serve voluntarily and the Task Force will be subject to the Oklahoma Open Records Act and the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. Plans, reports, or recommendations adopted by the Task Force will be considered advice to the Legislature. The Task Force will work towards creating a framework for a more efficient and effective governance structure for early childhood programming. The Task Force will conduct an analysis of the current early childhood delivery system in the state, conduct a series of stakeholder engagement opportunities to get feedback, conduct a review that synthesizes all feedback, draft a proposed transition plan, and draft proposed legislation that creates a new governance structure.

Prepared By: Suzie Nahach, House Research Staff

Fiscal Analysis

HB 1979 establishes the Early Childhood Task Force to improve service access and delivery to families and children and increase the quantity of high-quality early childhood services.

Task Force members will serve voluntarily. State agency employees appointed to the Task Force may claim reimbursements, such as travel expenses, from their agency's budget. Therefore, HB 1979 does not increase potential reimbursement claims or directly impact the FY27 state budget.

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Other Considerations

None.

