

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2006

625M0529

HOUSE ENGROSSED NO. **HB 1218** - 02/08/2006

Introduced by: Representatives Murschel, Brunner, Cutler, Elliott, Frost, Hennies, Jensen, Kraus, Novstrup, O'Brien, Rave, and Vehle and Senators Sutton (Dan), Abdallah, Dempster, Gant, Gray, and Kooistra

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to establish a task force to study education for divorcing
2 parents and visitation and custody matters.

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

4 Section 1. There is established the Task Force to Study Education for Divorcing Parents and
5 Visitation and Custody Matters. The task force shall consist of sixteen members. Eight members
6 shall be appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council, four members
7 shall be appointed by the Governor, and four members shall be appointed by the Chief Justice.
8 Not all members appointed by each appointive power may belong to the same political party.
9 The initial appointments shall be made no later than sixty days after the effective date of this
10 Act. If there is a vacancy on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the
11 original appointment. The appointments shall include circuit judges, legislators, behavioral
12 health care experts, divorced parents, divorce mediators, attorneys, a member of the South
13 Dakota Council of Mental Health Centers, and a representative of the Department of Social
14 Services.

15 Section 2. The task force shall be under the supervision of the Executive Board of the



1 Legislative Research Council and staffed and funded as an interim legislative committee. The
2 executive board shall appoint the chair and vice chair of the task force who shall be members
3 of the Legislature.

4 Section 3. The task force shall study South Dakota's delivery of parent education for
5 divorcing parents with minor children, visitation and custody issues, and shall explore best
6 practice models of evidence-based curriculums, court-required education, and visitation
7 referees. The task force shall make recommendations to improve divorce outcomes for children
8 and families and shall submit its final report to the Governor, Legislature, and Chief Justice no
9 later than June 30, 2007.