

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2006

625M0529

HOUSE BILL NO. 1218

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. Four members
6 shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, four members shall be
7 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, four members shall be appointed by the
8 Governor, and four members shall be appointed by the Chief Justice. Not all members appointed
9 by each appointive power may belong to the same political party. The initial appointments shall
10 be made no later than thirty days after the effective date of this Act. If there is a vacancy on the
11 task force, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The
12 appointments shall include circuit judges, legislators, behavioral health care experts, divorced
13 parents, divorce mediators, attorneys, and representatives of the Department of Social Services
14 and the Department of Human 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.

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