Session of 2025

SENATE BILL No. 249

By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

2-7

AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; relating to the department of health and environment; establishing the fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) advisory task force to prevent FASD and provide for treatment and support for affected individuals and their families; requiring the submission of annual reports to the legislature.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) There is established a comprehensive fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) awareness, prevention, identification, intervention and service delivery program for the state Kansas. Such program's responsibilities may include, but not be limited to:

(1) Designating an FASD state coordinator with knowledge and experience in the field of prenatal alcohol exposure and FASD;

(2) utilizing and adapting existing federal or state programs to include FASD identification and FASD-informed support;

(3) developing and expanding screening and diagnostic capacity for FASD;

(4) developing, implementing and evaluating targeted FASD-informed intervention programs for FASD;

(5) increasing awareness of FASD;

(6) providing training with respect to FASD for professionals across relevant sectors; and

(7) serving as a centralized resource for issues related to FASD and disseminating information about FASD and support services to affected individuals and their families.

(b) The governor shall designate the department of health and environment as the sole agency responsible for the administration of the program established under this section.

(c) An FASD task force is hereby established to provide guidance for the FASD state program, prevent FASD and provide for the identification, treatment and support of individuals with FASD and their families. Activities of the task force may include:

(1) Developing a statewide strategic plan to substantially reduce prenatal alcohol exposure and provide for the identification, treatment and support of individuals with FASD and their families;

(2) providing guidance on the implementation of such plan by

reviewing and commenting on grant proposals addressing prenatal alcohol and substance exposure and FASD-informed supports and interventions;

(3) identifying existing federal or state agency programs related to prenatal alcohol and substance exposure and FASD and making recommendations for the utilization and adaption of such programs to include prenatal alcohol screening and FASD-informed supports and interventions; and

(4) reviewing programs of state agencies that relate to prenatal alcohol or substance exposure and FASD and coordinating such programs that are interdepartmental in nature pursuant to an interagency agreement whenever feasible.

(d) (1) The FASD advisory task force shall consist of:

(A) The secretaries of the department of health and environment, the department of corrections, the department for children and families, the department of commerce and the board of education, or their designees; and

(B) eight members from the public, representing health, education and criminal justice professionals, service providers, tribal populations and at least three individuals with FASD or their family members, all of whom shall be appointed by the governor.

(2) Terms, compensation, removal and filling of vacancies of appointed members shall be governed by the department of health and environment. The task force shall elect a chair from its membership to serve a two-year term. All members shall be appointed prior to October 1, 2025.

(3) Members of the task force attending meetings authorized by the task force shall be paid amounts as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223(e), and amendments thereto.

(e) The secretary of health and environment shall designate an FASD state coordinator to provide administrative support for the task force. Administrative support may include personnel, budget, payroll and contract administration. The task force shall adopt an annual budget and work program.

(f) (1) The task force shall report from time to time on its activities to the governor, the legislature and the department of health and environment.

(2) Beginning in 2026, the task force shall file a formal report with the governor not later than October 15 of each even-numbered year so that the information contained in the report, including recommendations, can be included in the governor's budget message to the legislature.

(3) Beginning in 2027, the task force shall also submit a report to the house standing committee on health and human services and the senate standing committee on public health and welfare, or their successor

committees, not later than the first day of the regular legislative session of each odd-numbered year.

(g) The department of health and environment may apply for, receive and disburse federal funds made available to the state by federal law or rules adopted for any purpose related to the powers and duties of the department. The department shall comply with any requirements of federal law, rules and regulations to apply for, receive and disburse funds. The department may contract with or provide grants to public and private nonprofit entities for FASD programs set forth in this section.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.