

*Harold Brazil* 1  
Councilmember Harold Brazil 2

A BILL 3

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 5

Councilmember Harold Brazil introduced the following bill, which was referred to 6  
the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ 7

To establish a Juvenile Justice Task Force for the purpose of recommending 8  
improvements in the District of Columbia's criminal justice system as it 9  
applies to juveniles. 10

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF 11  
COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Juvenile Justice Task Force 12  
Establishment Act of 2003". 13

Sec. 2. Establishment of the Juvenile Justice Task Force. 14

(a) There is established the Juvenile Justice Task Force ("Task Force"). 15

(b) The Task Force shall perform the following duties: 16

(1) Review and analyze laws and procedures related to the criminal 17  
justice system in the District of Columbia and how it pertains to persons under age 18  
25; 19

(2) Make recommendations to the Council, in the form of proposed 20

legislation or otherwise, for enhancing public safety and juvenile justice and 1  
educating young people to be self-supporting and law-abiding citizens; 2

Sec. 3. Membership of the Task Force. 3

(a) The Task Force shall consist of 13 voting members and 8 non-voting 4  
members. 5

(1) The voting members shall consist of the following: 6

(a) The Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court, or his 7  
or her delegate; 8

(b) The United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, or his 9  
delegate; 10

(c) The Chairperson of the Council of the District of Columbia, or his 11  
or her delegate; 12

(d) The Director of the Public Defender Service, or his or her delegate; 13

(e) The Mayor of the District of Columbia, or his delegate; 14

(f) A lawyer who is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and who 15  
is recognized as an expert in Juvenile Justice in the District of Columbia. The 16  
Mayor may select the appointee within 30 days of the effectiveness date of this act 17  
provided that Mayor transmits a written notification of appointment, together with 18  
a signed statement from the appointee stating the appointee's intention to serve, to 19

the Chairperson of the Council within 30 days of the effectiveness date of this act. 1  
If a either a notice of appointment or the appointee’s statement has not been 2  
transmitted to the Chairperson of the Council within 30 days of the effectiveness 3  
date of this act, then the Chairperson of the Council may select the appointee; 4

(g) A District of Columbia resident who is recognized as an expert in 5  
the field of adolescent development and/or youth rehabilitation. The Mayor may 6  
select this appointee within 30 days of the effectiveness date of this act provided 7  
that Mayor transmits a written notification of appointment, together with a signed 8  
statement of the appointee stating the appointee’s intention to serve, to the 9  
Chairperson of the Council within 30 days of the effectiveness date of this act. If 10  
no appointment has been made by the Mayor within 30 days of the effectiveness 11  
date of this act, then the Chairperson of the Council may select the appointee; 12

(h) The Chairperson of the Council’s Committee on the Judiciary 13  
during years the 2001 through 2003, or his or her delegate; 14

(I) Chairperson of the Council’s Committee on the Judiciary during 15  
years the 1999 and 2001, or his or her delegate; 16

(j) The Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department, or his or her 17  
delegate; and, 18

(k) A citizen member who is a resident of the District of Columbia. 19

The Mayor may select the citizen-appointee within 30 days of the effectiveness  
date of this act provided that Mayor transmits a written notification of appointment,  
together with a signed statement by the appointee stating his or her intention to  
serve, to the Chairperson of the Council within 30 days of the effectiveness date of  
this act. If either a notice of appointment or the appointee’s statement has not been  
transmitted to the Chairperson of the Council within 30 days of the effectiveness  
date of this act, then the Chairperson of the Council may select the appointee;

(l) The Office of Corporation Counsel, or his or her delegate; and,

(m) A representative of a not-for-profit organization, whether a social  
services agency or research organization, that is recognized as having expertise in  
the field of child development and/or child behavior. The Chairperson of the  
Council select the organization.

(2) The non-voting members shall consist of the following:

(a) The President of the District of Columbia Bar, or his or her  
delegate;

(b) The President of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia,  
or his or her delegate;

(c) The Director of the District of Columbia Department of  
Corrections, or his or her delegate;

(d) The Director of the Youth Services Administration, or his or her delegate; 1  
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(e) The Chairperson of the District of Columbia Board of Education or his or her delegate; 3  
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(f) The Chief Financial Officer, or his or her delegate. 5

(3) Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation. 6

(4) The members of the Task Force shall elect a Chairperson from among their members. 7  
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Sec. 4. Meetings and hearings. 9

(a) The Task Force shall meet as necessary to conduct its official business. 10

(b) A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum. 11

(c) The Task Force may act by an affirmative vote of at least 7 of its voting members. 12  
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(d) The Task Force may conduct hearings, receive testimony, and call witnesses to assist the Task Force in the exercise of its powers and duties; 14  
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(e) The Chairperson of the Task Force is authorized to administer an oath to witnesses. The Task Force may conduct hearings or meetings *in camera* if, at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Task Force, it is appropriate and necessary to do so either for the purpose of protecting the confidentiality of young people or for 16  
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the purpose of protecting the security of law enforcement personnel; 1

(f) The Mayor shall assist the Task Force and its Chairperson in the 2  
performance of the Task Force's powers and duties. 3

Sec. 5. Report of the Task Force. 4

(a) No later than April 1, 2003, the task Force shall issue a report to the 5  
Council stating its recommendations for reforming the Juvenile Justice system in the 6  
District of Columbia. 7

(b) The report shall state if any legislation should be enacted to improve the 8  
juvenile justice system in the District of Columbia. In the event that the Task Force 9  
recommends legislative changes, the report should estimate the cost of the 10  
proposed legislation. 11

(b) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. 12

Sec. 6. Fiscal impact statement. 13

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the 14  
fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia 15  
Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code § 1-233 16  
(c)(3)). 17

Sec. 7. Effective date. 18

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of 19

a veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and a 30-day 1  
period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of 2  
Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. 3  
Official Code § 1-206(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register. 4