

SENATE BILL 320

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1999 Regular Session
9r0621

By: **Senators Pinsky, Collins, McFadden, and Blount**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Primary and Secondary Education - Teacher Shortage - Study Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission to Study Teacher Shortages in Public
4 Schools in the State; providing for the membership, chairman, duties, and
5 staffing of the Commission; requiring the Commission to report to the Governor
6 and General Assembly on its findings and recommendations by a certain date;
7 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the
8 establishment of a Commission to Study Teacher Shortages in Public Schools in
9 the State.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, The nation faces a teacher shortage of 2 million teachers by the
12 year 2005, including a shortage in Maryland of 30,000 teachers; and

13 WHEREAS, Fifty percent of those who enter the profession leave the field
14 within the first 5 years; and

15 WHEREAS, Statistics show that teachers tend to remain in the profession if
16 they can be retained beyond 6 years; and

17 WHEREAS, Fifty percent of Maryland teachers come from out-of-state; and

18 WHEREAS, On any given day twenty-five percent of teachers in Maryland
19 schools are noncertificated or are teaching out of their field; now, therefore,

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That:

22 (a) There is a Commission to Study Teacher Shortages in Public Schools in the
23 State.

24 (b) The Commission shall be composed of 15 members appointed as follows:

25 (1) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
26 the House;

1 (2) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
2 of the Senate; and

3 (3) the following members appointed by the Governor:

4 (i) the Superintendent of Public Schools or the Superintendent's
5 designee;

6 (ii) one member of a local board of education;

7 (iii) one local superintendent of schools;

8 (iv) two representatives from the Maryland State Teachers
9 Association;

10 (v) one member of the American Federation of Teachers, Maryland;

11 (vi) one representative of a public institution of higher education in
12 the State;

13 (vii) one representative from the private sector;

14 (viii) two parents selected from a list submitted by the Maryland
15 State Parent-Teacher Association; and

16 (ix) one member from the Professional Standards and Teacher
17 Education Board.

18 (c) The Governor shall designate one of the members as chairman of the
19 Commission.

20 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the
21 Commission.

22 (e) A member of the Commission may not receive compensation for serving on
23 the Commission, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
24 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

25 (f) The Commission shall study:

26 (1) the extent of teacher shortages at public schools in the State;

27 (2) the cause and effect of teacher shortages;

28 (3) how local school systems handle teacher shortages;

29 (4) the impact that teacher shortages have on student academic
30 performance; and

31 (5) possible solutions to alleviate teacher shortages.

1 (g) The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
2 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
3 General Assembly by December 1, 1999.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 July 1, 1999. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of
6 December 31, 1999, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
7 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.