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By: **Delegates Marriott, Hubbard, Montgomery, Edwards, Aumann, Cardin,  
Cryor, C. Davis, Heller, Hixson, Howard, Kaiser, Morhaim, Patterson,  
Ramirez, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2004  
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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 16, 2004

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Inclusive Child and After-School Care**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Inclusive Child and After-School  
4 Care; providing for the membership of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to  
5 designate the chair of the Task Force; requiring the Child Care Administration  
6 to coordinate the staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting certain persons from the  
7 receipt of certain compensation, and authorizing the reimbursement of certain  
8 expenses; authorizing the Task Force to consult with certain persons; requiring  
9 the Task Force to hold public forums for certain purposes; requiring the Task  
10 Force to review certain literature and research; requiring the Task Force to  
11 develop certain information for the Governor and General Assembly; requiring  
12 the Task Force to assist the Governor and State agencies in implementing  
13 certain recommendations; authorizing the Task Force to take certain action;  
14 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task  
15 Force on Inclusive Child and After-School Care.

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 1,377,380 children and youth with  
18 disabilities and special health care needs ages birth through 21 in Maryland; and

19 WHEREAS, The Child Care Administration and other State agencies have made  
20 efforts to increase the availability and quality of child and after-school care for  
21 children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs, yet families of  
22 children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs continue to  
23 experience discrimination; and

1 WHEREAS, Quantitative and qualitative data indicate that there are systemic  
2 barriers to families of children and youth with disabilities and special health care  
3 needs obtaining and maintaining quality inclusive child care for their children; and

4 WHEREAS, Families of children and youth with disabilities and special health  
5 care needs who are unable to obtain and maintain child care for their children are  
6 experiencing financial hardship and family stress; and

7 WHEREAS, Child care professionals working with children and families need to  
8 understand their ethical and legal responsibilities to serve children with disabilities  
9 and special health care needs; and

10 WHEREAS, Child care professionals need the appropriate knowledge and skills  
11 to care for children with disabilities and special health care needs; and

12 WHEREAS, There is a need for interagency coordination to increase the  
13 capacity of Maryland's child care system to serve children and youth with disabilities  
14 and special health care needs; now, therefore,

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That:

17 (a) There is a Task Force on Inclusive Child and After-School Care.

18 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

19 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
20 the Senate;

21 (2) one member of the Maryland House of Delegates, appointed by the  
22 Speaker of the House;

23 (3) the Director of the Child Care Administration, or the Director's  
24 designee;

25 (4) the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office for Children, Youth,  
26 and Families, or the Special Secretary's designee;

27 (5) the Director of the Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities,  
28 or the Director's designee;

29 (6) the Director of the Developmental Disabilities Administration, or the  
30 Director's designee;

31 (7) the Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration, or the Director's  
32 designee;

33 (8) the State Assistant Superintendent for Special Education, or the  
34 State Assistant Superintendent's designee;

- 1           (9)     four family members of children and youth with disabilities or special  
2 health care needs, appointed by the Governor;
- 3           (10)    a representative of the Maryland Committee for Children, appointed  
4 by the Governor;
- 5           (11)    a representative of Abilities Network, appointed by the Governor;
- 6           (12)    a representative of the Coalition of Families for Children's Mental  
7 Health, appointed by the Governor;
- 8           (13)    a representative of the State Family Child Care Association,  
9 appointed by the Governor; ~~and~~
- 10          (14)    a representative of the State Child Care Association, appointed by  
11 the Governor;
- 12          (15)    a representative of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council,  
13 appointed by the Governor;
- 14          (16)    a representative of the Maryland Disability Law Center, appointed  
15 by the Governor; and
- 16          (17)    a representative of The Arc of Maryland, Inc., appointed by the  
17 Governor.
- 18       (c)     The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 19       (d)     The Child Care Administration shall coordinate the staffing of the Task  
20 Force.
- 21       (e)     A member of the Task Force:
- 22           (1)     may not receive compensation; but
- 23           (2)     is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
24 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 25       (f)     The Task Force:
- 26           (1)     may consult, on a pro bono basis, with child care, education, and  
27 health officials and experts in this State and in other states and countries;
- 28           (2)     shall convene regional public forums to gather information and  
29 feedback from families of children and youth with disabilities and special health care  
30 needs;
- 31           (3)     shall review the relevant literature and current research and  
32 practices related to serving children and youth with disabilities and special health  
33 care needs in community child care and after-school care programs;

1           (4)       shall develop a report and series of recommendations for the  
2 Governor and General Assembly aimed at reducing barriers to quality inclusive child  
3 and after-school care for children with disabilities and special health care needs,  
4 following "best practices" while complying with federal requirements;

5           (5)       shall assist the Governor and State agencies in implementing the  
6 recommendations developed by the Task Force;

7           (6)       may take any other action necessary and appropriate to carry out the  
8 purposes of this section; and

9           (7)       shall report its findings, activities, and recommendations to the  
10 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the  
11 General Assembly on or before July 1, 2005.

12       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 July 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the  
14 end of August 1, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
15 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.