
By: **Delegates Boteler, Aumann, Cluster, DeBoy, Donoghue, Frank,
Glassman, Impallaria, Kach, Kohl, Mayer, McComas, and McDonough**
Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Evaluate Existing School Civic Literacy Programs -**
3 **Established**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Evaluate Existing School Civic
5 Literacy Programs; providing for the membership, chair, and staffing of the
6 Task Force; providing for the duties of the Task Force; prohibiting members of
7 the Task Force from receiving compensation but entitling a member to certain
8 reimbursement; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and
9 recommendations to the State Department of Education on or before a certain
10 date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
11 establishing a Task Force to Evaluate Existing School Civic Literacy Programs.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) In this Act, "civic literacy" means:

15 (1) an understanding of the workings of the American political, social
16 and economic systems;

17 (2) an appreciation of the geographical and historical foundations which
18 have shaped and continue to shape these systems; and

19 (3) the acquisition of the tools necessary for responsible citizenship and
20 community involvement.

21 (b) There is a Task Force to Evaluate Existing School Civic Literacy Programs.

22 (c) The Task Force consists of the following members:

23 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
24 of the Senate;

25 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
26 of the House; and

1 (3) five members with expertise in the area of civic literacy, appointed by
2 the Governor.

3 (d) To the extent practicable, when appointing members to the Task Force, the
4 Governor shall assure geographic balance and promote racial diversity in the
5 membership of the Task Force.

6 (e) The Task Force shall elect a chair from among its members.

7 (f) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

8 (g) A member of the Task Force:

9 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

10 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
11 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

12 (h) The Task Force shall:

13 (1) evaluate existing school civic literacy programs;

14 (2) determine a strategy for enhancing long-term civic education; and

15 (3) make recommendations regarding a plan for implementing a civic
16 education program.

17 (i) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the State
18 Department of Education on or before December 1, 2006.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the
21 end of July 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
22 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.