

# HOUSE BILL 1378

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By: **Delegates Stukes, Anderson, Carter, Conaway, Glenn, Harrison, Haynes, Kirk, Krysiak, McHale, McIntosh, Oaks, Robinson, Rosenberg, and Valderrama**

Introduced and read first time: March 5, 2007

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Review the Restoration of Vocational and Technical Education**  
3 **in Middle Schools and High Schools in Maryland**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Review the Restoration of Vocational  
5 and Technical Education in Middle Schools and High Schools in Maryland;  
6 establishing the membership and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the  
7 members of the Task Force to designate the chair of the Task Force; requiring  
8 the Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding certain  
9 issues; requiring the Task Force to submit a report to certain officials regarding  
10 its recommendations by a certain date; prohibiting a member of the Task Force  
11 from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing a member of the Task  
12 Force to receive certain reimbursements; providing for the termination of this  
13 Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Review the Restoration of  
14 Vocational and Technical Education in Middle Schools and High Schools in  
15 Maryland.

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, A significant number of students in the public schools of the State  
18 do not graduate from high school and may not be prepared for the workplace; and

19 WHEREAS, A large percentage of the students who do graduate from high  
20 school in the State do not go on to postsecondary education and instead directly enter  
21 the workforce; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, It is reported that the current public middle school and high school  
2 curriculum and method of teaching does not adequately prepare all students for  
3 meaningful and productive work; and

4 WHEREAS, Some employers complain that many students are not adequately  
5 prepared for work when they leave school; and

6 WHEREAS, There is a clear need for skilled workers in many industries and  
7 professions already located throughout the State and for businesses that are  
8 considering a move to the State; and

9 WHEREAS, The State has a constitutional obligation to provide all students  
10 with an adequate public education that prepares them for work and citizenship; and

11 WHEREAS, It is desirable to develop and implement an alternative model for  
12 the education of students who do not go on to postsecondary education; and

13 WHEREAS, There exists a need to identify research-based models that better  
14 prepare students for entry into the workplace and for lifelong advancement and  
15 learning; and

16 WHEREAS, There is growing interest in this State and throughout the United  
17 States in establishing more and better vocational and technical training opportunities  
18 for students in the public schools; and

19 WHEREAS, There is a need for a broad-based forum, with participation from  
20 many stakeholders, for the exploration of these topics in ways that lead to practical  
21 solutions; now, therefore,

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
23 MARYLAND, That:

24 (a) There is a Task Force to Review the Restoration of Vocational and  
25 Technical Education in Middle Schools and High Schools in Maryland.

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

27 (1) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
28 of the House;

29 (2) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
30 President of the Senate;

1                   (3)    The State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's  
2    designee;

3                   (4)    The Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the  
4    Secretary's designee;

5                   (5)    The Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;  
6    and

7                   (6)    The following members appointed by the Governor:

8                   (i)     Two county superintendents of schools;

9                   (ii)    Two representatives of the Maryland Association of Boards  
10   of Education;

11                  (iii)   Two representatives of the Maryland Association of  
12   Counties;

13                  (iv)    Two members selected from among the faculty and  
14   administration of the community colleges in the State;

15                  (v)     Two members selected from the Maryland Chamber of  
16   Commerce and a local chamber of commerce, with one member from each entity;

17                  (vi)    Two members selected from among labor organizations  
18   representing employees in skilled industries and professions and apprenticeship  
19   programs in the State;

20                  (vii)   Two educators employed in a public middle school or high  
21   school in the State;

22                  (viii)   Two parents of students enrolled in a public middle school or  
23   high school in the State; and

24                  (ix)    Two students enrolled in a public middle school or high  
25   school in the State.

26                  (c)     The members of the Task Force shall designate the chair of the Task  
27   Force.

1           (d)    The State Department of Education shall provide staff support for the  
2 Task Force.

3           (e)    A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on  
4 the Task Force but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
5 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

6           (f)    The Task Force shall:

7                   (1)    Examine the needs of students in the public schools in the State  
8 who are not completing high school to determine if they are being prepared for  
9 meaningful work and citizenship;

10                   (2)    Examine the needs of students in the public school systems in the  
11 State who are not going on to postsecondary education to determine if they are being  
12 prepared for meaningful work and citizenship;

13                   (3)    Explore whether the middle school or high school curriculum is  
14 contributing to the decisions of some students not to complete high school;

15                   (4)    Examine the workforce needs of the community, focusing especially  
16 on present and future opportunities for workers who are not college educated or who  
17 do not possess a 4-year college degree;

18                   (5)    Examine whether the State's current middle school and high school  
19 curriculum meets the needs of students who are not going on to postsecondary  
20 education;

21                   (6)    Explore research-based alternatives to the current middle school  
22 and high school curriculum in public school systems that might better prepare  
23 students who are not going on to postsecondary education;

24                   (7)    Identify strategies and approaches that might better address the  
25 needs of students not going on to postsecondary education, including the feasibility of  
26 curriculum changes and the development of vocational and technical programs in  
27 middle schools and in high schools as well as other alternative instructional models;

28                   (8)    Identify legal, financial, regulatory, and organizational obstacles to  
29 the implementation of curriculum and instructional changes in public middle schools  
30 and high schools, including the use of vocational and technical academies; and

1                   (9)    Explore the willingness of stakeholders in the public schools in the  
2 State to implement changes to curriculum and instruction in the middle schools and  
3 high schools.

4                   (g)    On or before October 1, 2008, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
5 recommendations to the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
6 Government Article, the General Assembly.

7                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 July 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the  
9 end of December 31, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
10 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.