

HOUSE BILL 810

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By: **Delegates Gutierrez, Anderson, Barkley, Beitzel, Bobo, Braveboy, Carr, Conaway, Cullison, Dumais, Feldman, Frick, Frush, Glenn, Haddaway–Riccio, Haynes, Howard, Huckler, Kach, Kaiser, A. Kelly, Lee, Love, Luedtke, McMillan, A. Miller, Nathan–Pulliam, O’Donnell, Pena–Melnik, B. Robinson, S. Robinson, Rosenberg, Stukes, V. Turner, Valderrama, and Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2011

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dropout Prevention Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Dropout Prevention Task Force; providing for the
4 membership and cochairs of the Task Force; requiring the State Department of
5 Education to staff the Task Force; providing that the members of the Task Force
6 may not receive compensation, but are entitled to a certain reimbursement;
7 establishing the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to submit a
8 certain report to the Governor, the Governor’s Office for Children, the General
9 Assembly, and the Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families by a
10 certain date; requiring the State Department of Education and the Children’s
11 Cabinet to consider the findings and recommendations of the Task Force in the
12 development of plans and programs; providing for the termination of this Act;
13 and generally relating to the Dropout Prevention Task Force.

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

16 (a) There is a Dropout Prevention Task Force.

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

18 (1) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, one to serve as cochair,
19 appointed by the President of the Senate;

20 (2) Two members of the House of Delegates, one to serve as cochair,
21 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (3) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's
2 designee;
- 3 (4) The Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- 4 (5) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
5 designee;
- 6 (6) The Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- 7 (7) A representative of the Maryland State Teachers Association,
8 appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;
- 9 (8) The Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and
10 Prevention, or the Director's designee;
- 11 (9) The following members appointed by the Governor, from school
12 districts or local education agencies with student populations greater than 70,000:
- 13 (i) Two local education agency board members;
- 14 (ii) Two school superintendents, or the superintendents'
15 designees;
- 16 (iii) Two representatives of local social services agencies;
- 17 (iv) Two representatives of youth service bureaus;
- 18 (v) Two representatives of licensed health or mental health
19 service providers;
- 20 (vi) Two principals of local middle or secondary schools, or the
21 principals' designees;
- 22 (vii) Two public school students;
- 23 (viii) Two parents of public school students;
- 24 (ix) One representative from a nonpublic school; and
- 25 (x) One representative who is knowledgeable in serving students
26 with disabilities; and
- 27 (10) The following members, appointed by the Governor, from school
28 districts or local education agencies with student populations of less than 70,000:
- 29 (i) One local education agency school board member;

- 1 (ii) Two school superintendents, or the superintendents' designees;
2 (iii) One representative of a local social services agency; and
3 (iv) One principal of a local middle or secondary school, or the
4 principal's designee.

5 (c) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

6 (d) A member of the Task Force:

7 (1) May not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

8 (2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
9 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

10 (e) The Task Force shall:

11 (1) Study, survey, and assess the adequacy, quality, and effectiveness
12 of dropout prevention programs currently being provided to students in the State by
13 local educational agencies;

14 (2) Conduct hearings and gather information about current dropout
15 prevention policies and programs in the State, including current data on dropout rates
16 by gender and subgroups for all local educational agencies;

17 (3) Identify specific best practices and successful models for dropout
18 prevention programs in the State and in other states; and

19 (4) Prepare and report findings and recommendations to reduce
20 dropout rates in the State.

21 (f) On or before January 1, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings and
22 recommendations to the Governor and the Governor's Office for Children and, in
23 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly and
24 the Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families.

25 (g) The State Department of Education and the Children's Cabinet shall
26 consider the findings and recommendations of the Task Force in the development of
27 plans and programs.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 July 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,
30 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
31 abrogated and of no further force and effect.