

HOUSE BILL 1186

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3lr2591

By: **Delegates McComas, Cardin, Carter, Clippinger, Cluster, DeBoy, Dumais, Eckardt, Frank, Glass, Hogan, Lee, McConkey, McDermott, McDonough, Mitchell, Otto, Ready, B. Robinson, Rosenberg, Simmons, Smigiel, Sophocleus, Stocksdale, Swain, Valentino-Smith, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2013

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and
4 Neglect; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force;
5 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
6 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task
7 Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring
8 the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and
9 the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination
10 of this Act; and generally relating to child abuse and neglect.

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

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

15 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
16 President of the Senate;

17 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
18 of the House;

19 (3) the State Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's
20 designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (4) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
2 designee;
- 3 (5) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- 4 (6) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee; and
- 5 (7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 6 (i) one representative of the Governor's Office of Crime Control
7 and Prevention;
- 8 (ii) one representative of the State Council on Child Abuse and
9 Neglect;
- 10 (iii) one representative of public school employees with expertise
11 regarding the current operations and training practices within public schools on the
12 prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect;
- 13 (iv) one representative of nonpublic school employees with
14 expertise regarding the current operations and training practices within nonpublic
15 schools on the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect;
- 16 (v) one representative of the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual
17 Assault;
- 18 (vi) one representative of a child advocacy center with expertise
19 in child abuse and victimization;
- 20 (vii) one representative of the Maryland Children's Alliance;
- 21 (viii) one representative of an organization representing law
22 enforcement;
- 23 (ix) one representative of the mental health community;
- 24 (x) one representative of the Maryland Child Abuse Medical
25 Professionals Network;
- 26 (xi) one representative of the Maryland chapter of the National
27 Association of Social Workers;
- 28 (xii) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys'
29 Association; and
- 30 (xiii) three members of the general public who are actively
31 involved in the field of child abuse and neglect.

1 (c) The membership of the Task Force shall reasonably reflect the
2 geographic diversity of the State.

3 (d) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

4 (e) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide staff
5 for the Task Force with assistance from the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect.

6 (f) 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 (g) The Task Force shall:

11 (1) hold hearings throughout the State and receive testimony from
12 individuals, State and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other
13 public and private organizations;

14 (2) study:

15 (i) child abuse and neglect throughout the State; and

16 (ii) best practices throughout the United States regarding laws
17 and systems designed to protect children and prevent child abuse and neglect; and

18 (3) make recommendations regarding:

19 (i) goals for State policies to prevent child abuse and neglect;

20 (ii) whether changes to the State's child abuse and neglect laws
21 should be made, including whether criminal penalties should be established for the
22 intentional failure to report child abuse or neglect;

23 (iii) methods for improving systems for reporting child abuse and
24 neglect;

25 (iv) methods to foster excellence among multidisciplinary teams
26 investigating child abuse and neglect and cooperation among State agencies and
27 between the State and local governments that handle child abuse and neglect cases;

28 (v) methods for improving access to medical care and mental
29 health services and treatment;

1 (vi) methods for increasing public awareness about child abuse
2 and neglect;

3 (vii) methods for increasing funding to prevent and address
4 childhood trauma; and

5 (viii) methods for improving the training of professionals
6 described in § 5-704 of the Family Law Article on the reporting of child abuse and
7 neglect.

8 (h) On or before December 1, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings
9 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
10 Government Article, the General Assembly.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
13 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
14 abrogated and of no further force and effect.