

HOUSE BILL 1423

F1, J1

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By: **Delegates Smigiel, Afzali, Cluster, Frank, Hough, McDermott, and Ready**
Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2013
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Mental Illness Among Students in Public Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Mental Illness Among
4 Students in Public Schools; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of
5 the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
6 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
7 requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain
8 matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to
9 the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a
10 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
11 the Task Force to Study Mental Illness Among Students in Public Schools.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Mental Illness Among Students in Public
15 Schools.

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

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
18 President of the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
20 of the House;

21 (3) the State Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's
22 designee;

23 (4) the Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration, or the
24 Director's designee; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (5) the following five members, appointed by the Governor:
- 2 (i) one public school psychologist;
- 3 (ii) one psychiatrist who treats children with a diagnosis of
4 mental illness;
- 5 (iii) one parent of a child with a diagnosis of mental illness;
- 6 (iv) one representative of the Mental Health Association of
7 Maryland; and
- 8 (v) one representative of the Maryland Chapter of the National
9 Alliance on Mental Illness.
- 10 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 11 (d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- 12 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 13 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 14 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
15 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 16 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 17 (1) study:
- 18 (i) the prevalence of a diagnosis of mental illness among
19 students in public schools in the State; and
- 20 (ii) the current system of diagnosing and treating students with
21 mental illness in public schools in the State; and
- 22 (2) make recommendations regarding how to improve the current
23 system of diagnosing and treating students with mental illness in the
24 State.
- 25 (g) On or before December 15, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings
26 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
27 Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
28 Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
3 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
4 abrogated and of no further force and effect.