HOUSE BILL 1462


Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2013
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study a Later Starting Time for Maryland Public Schools

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study a Later Starting Time for Maryland Public Schools; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting Task Force members from receiving compensation, but authorizing reimbursement for certain expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations relating to a later starting time for Maryland public schools; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study a Later Starting Time for Maryland Public Schools.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study a Later Starting Time for Maryland Public Schools.

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

1. two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

2. two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

3. the following members, appointed by the Governor:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(i) one representative of the State Board of Education;
(ii) one representative of the Maryland Boards of Education;
(iii) one representative of the Maryland State Education Association;
(iv) one representative of the Maryland Association for Secondary School Principals;
(v) one representative of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene who has expertise in adolescent health issues;
(vi) one mental health professional who specializes in young adult and adolescent health issues;
(vii) one pediatrician who has expertise in adolescent healthcare;
(viii) one doctor who specializes in sleep disorders;
(ix) one representative from the Maryland Department of Transportation;
(x) one parent of a student enrolled in a Maryland public middle or high school;
(xi) one student enrolled in a Maryland public high school; and
(xii) one representative who is an athletic director or a coach employed by a Maryland public middle or high school who has expertise in after-school sports activities.

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

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

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) review the science on the sleep needs of adolescents, including effects of sleep deprivation on academic performance and benefits of sufficient sleep;
(2) review and study how other school systems have implemented later school day starting times and how various activities in those school systems were impacted and scheduled around the changes; and

(3) make recommendations regarding whether public schools in the State should implement a starting time of no earlier than 8:00 a.m.

(g) On or before December 31, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.