

HOUSE BILL 561

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4lr1923

By: **Delegates B. Robinson, Conaway, Glenn, Harper, Howard, Oaks, Stukes, and M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Task Force to Study the Suspension of Prekindergarten**
3 **Students in Public Schools**

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

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Suspension of Prekindergarten
17 Students in Public Schools.

18 (b) The Task Force consists of the following 11 members:

19 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
20 President of the Senate;

21 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
22 of the House;

23 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
24 designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Board of School
2 Commissioners, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee; and

3 (5) the following five members, appointed by the Governor:

4 (i) one representative of the Baltimore City Parent and
5 Community Advisory Board;

6 (ii) one representative of Advocates for Children and Youth;

7 (iii) one representative of Maryland PTA;

8 (iv) one representative of the Public School Superintendents
9 Association of Maryland; and

10 (v) one representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of
11 Education.

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

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

14 (e) A member of the Task Force:

15 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

16 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
17 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

18 (f) (1) The Task Force shall study:

19 (i) the number of prekindergarten students suspended in each
20 local school system during the 2013–2014 school year, the 2012–2013 school year, and
21 the 2011–2012 school year;

22 (ii) the rates of suspension of prekindergarten students in
23 Baltimore City compared to other local school systems;

24 (iii) the impact of zero–tolerance policies on the rates of
25 suspension of prekindergarten students; and

26 (iv) the impact of suspension of prekindergarten students on
27 academic performance and student behavior; and

28 (2) make recommendations regarding:

1 (i) the effectiveness of suspensions of prekindergarten students;
2 and

3 (ii) the continued use of suspensions of prekindergarten
4 students in public schools in the State.

5 (g) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings
6 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
7 Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
8 Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 June 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
11 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
12 abrogated and of no further force and effect.