

# HOUSE BILL 838

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By: **Delegate James**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Vocational and Technical Education Programs in**  
3 **Harford County**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Vocational and Technical  
5 Education Programs in Harford County; providing for the composition, chair,  
6 and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from  
7 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain  
8 expenses; requiring the Task Force, in consultation with a certain committee, to  
9 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the  
10 Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the  
11 Harford County Executive, the Harford County Board of Education, and the  
12 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of  
13 this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Vocational and  
14 Technical Education Programs in Harford County.

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, The Harford Technical High School, which has served since 1978 as  
17 the “Home of Academic & Technical Excellence”, has a mission to ensure that every  
18 student will become a productive, responsible citizen while achieving mastery of  
19 academic, technical, and life skills; and

20 WHEREAS, The Harford Technical High School offers a rigorous menu of  
21 academic course work along with 18 State-approved Career and Technology  
22 Programs; and

23 WHEREAS, The Harford Technical High School offers work-based learning  
24 opportunities to eligible juniors and seniors, in their respective areas of career and  
25 technical study, which allows students to earn an income while earning credits toward  
26 graduation and gaining valuable career experience and industry contacts; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           WHEREAS, Annually, the number of applications the Harford Technical High  
2 School receives consistently exceeds the capacity of the school, resulting in numerous  
3 qualified applicants not being accepted for admission each year; and

4           WHEREAS, Efforts have been made to duplicate vocational and technical  
5 education programs in other high schools in Harford County; and

6           WHEREAS, Even with the success of Harford Technical High School and the  
7 duplication of some vocational and technical programs in other high schools, it is likely  
8 that a great need for additional vocational and technical education programs still  
9 exists because of the great demand for skilled workers in numerous industries and  
10 trades in Harford County; and

11           WHEREAS, Harford County Public Schools has recently formed a committee to  
12 review the program offerings at Harford Technical High School; however, there is a  
13 need for a broad-based forum, with participation from many stakeholders, to examine  
14 the vocational and technical education programs offered in Harford County, explore  
15 options to expand the capacity of the programs, and ensure that the programs remain  
16 current with the demands of the economy and relevant to current and potential future  
17 employers; now, therefore,

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

20           (a)    There is a Task Force to Study Vocational and Technical Education  
21 Programs in Harford County.

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

23                   (1)    one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
24 of the Senate;

25                   (2)    one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
26 the House;

27                   (3)    the Superintendent of Schools of Harford County, or the  
28 Superintendent's designee;

29                   (4)    the President of the Harford County Board of Education, or the  
30 President's designee;

31                   (5)    the County Executive of Harford County, or the County Executive's  
32 designee;

33                   (6)    the President of the Harford County Council, or the President's  
34 designee;

1 (7) the President of Harford Community College, or the President's  
2 designee;

3 (8) a representative from one of the four magnet programs in Harford  
4 County, appointed by the Superintendent of Schools of Harford County;

5 (9) one staff member of the Maryland State Department of Education,  
6 appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;

7 (10) the President of the Harford County Education Association, or the  
8 President's designee;

9 (11) the President of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce, or the  
10 President's designee;

11 (12) the President of the Route 40 Business Association, or the  
12 President's designee;

13 (13) the President of the Board of Directors of the Army Alliance, or the  
14 President's designee; and

15 (14) the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Maryland  
16 Technology Council, or the Chair's designee.

17 (c) The members of the Task Force shall designate the chair from among the  
18 members of the Task Force.

19 (d) The Harford County Board of Education shall provide staff for the Task  
20 Force.

21 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

25 (f) The Task Force, in consultation with the Harford County Public Schools  
26 committee charged with reviewing the program offerings at Harford Technical High  
27 School, shall:

28 (1) examine the current capacity of vocational and technical education  
29 programs at Harford Technical High School and programs at other high schools in  
30 Harford County;

31 (2) evaluate how much additional capacity is necessary in vocational  
32 and technical education programs in Harford County;

1           (3) explore potential options to address the need for additional  
2 capacity in vocational and technical education programs in Harford County, including  
3 an option to establish a second vocational and technical high school in the county;

4           (4) study the vocational and technical education programs at other  
5 vocational and technical high schools in the State;

6           (5) evaluate whether the vocational and technical education programs  
7 offered in Harford County are current with the demands of the economy and relevant  
8 to current and potential future employers;

9           (6) examine the transportation needs of students in vocational and  
10 technical education programs; and

11           (7) make recommendations regarding:

12                   (i) the additional capacity that is necessary in vocational and  
13 technical education programs in Harford County;

14                   (ii) options to address the additional capacity needs; and

15                   (iii) the appropriate vocational and technical education programs  
16 necessary to remain current with the demands of the economy and relevant to current  
17 and potential future employers.

18           (g) On or before December 1, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings  
19 and recommendations to the Governor, the Harford County Executive, the Harford  
20 County Council, the Harford County Board of Education, and, in accordance with §  
21 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

22           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,  
24 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
25 abrogated and of no further force and effect.