

# HOUSE BILL 1344

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By: **Delegates Cardin and Stein**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Preventing Child Sexual Abuse**

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

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force on Preventing Child Sexual Abuse.

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

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

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

20 (3) the State Superintendent of School, or the State Superintendent's  
21 designee;

22 (4) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's  
23 designee;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

2 (6) the Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children, Youth,  
3 and Families, or the Executive Director's designee; and

4 (7) the following five members, appointed by the Governor:

5 (i) one representative of public school employees;

6 (ii) one representative of the State Council on Child Abuse and  
7 Neglect;

8 (iii) one representative of a federally recognized child advocacy  
9 center;

10 (iv) one representative from the Maryland Partnership to  
11 Prevent Child Sexual Abuse; and

12 (v) one representative of victims of child sexual abuse.

13 (c) The Task Force shall elect the chair of the Task Force from among its  
14 members.

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

16 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

20 (f) The Task Force shall consult with:

21 (1) the Department of Human Resources;

22 (2) the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

23 (3) the Department of Juvenile Services;

24 (4) the State Department of Education;

25 (5) the Department of State Police; and

26 (6) any other State agency as necessary to accomplish the duties of the  
27 Task Force.

1 (g) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations for preventing  
2 child sexual abuse in the State by:

3 (1) gathering information concerning child sexual abuse in the State;

4 (2) receiving reports and testimony from individuals, State and local  
5 agencies, community-based organizations, and any other public or private entity  
6 involved in the prevention of sexual abuse of children and child welfare;

7 (3) reviewing steps taken and programs established in other states  
8 relating to the prevention of child sexual abuse; and

9 (4) establishing guidelines for:

10 (i) school policies addressing sexual abuse of children;

11 (ii) developing and implementing an age-appropriate,  
12 evidence-based curriculum and instruction for students in grades pre-K to 12  
13 concerning child sexual abuse awareness and prevention;

14 (iii) appropriate responses by school personnel to students who  
15 have been affected by sexual abuse; and

16 (iv) developing and disseminating educational materials to  
17 parents and guardians of students on the warning signs of child sexual abuse and  
18 information on assistance and resource referrals.

19 (h) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings  
20 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
21 Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
22 Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

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