

HOUSE BILL 1389

D4
HB 1186/13 – JUD

4lr3017

By: **Delegate McComas**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Judiciary, February 26, 2014

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 30, 2014

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect**

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

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

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

15 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
16 of the Senate;

17 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
18 the House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



- 1 (3) the State Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's
2 designee;
- 3 (4) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
4 designee;
- 5 (5) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- 6 (6) one representative of the Governor's Office for Children; and
- 7 (7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 8 (i) one representative of the Governor's Office of Crime Control
9 and Prevention;
- 10 (ii) one representative of the State Council on Child Abuse and
11 Neglect;
- 12 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Court–Appointed Special
13 Advocate Program;
- 14 (iv) one representative of nonpublic school employees with
15 expertise regarding the current operations and training practices within nonpublic
16 schools on the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect;
- 17 (v) one representative of the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual
18 Assault;
- 19 (vi) one representative of Maryland Child Abuse Medical
20 Providers or the Maryland Psychological Association;
- 21 (vii) one representative of the Maryland Children's Alliance;
- 22 (viii) one representative of an organization representing law
23 enforcement;
- 24 (ix) one representative of the Maryland chapter of the National
25 Association of Social Workers;
- 26 ~~(x) one clinical social worker with experience working with~~
27 ~~abused and neglected children;~~
- 28 (x) one representative of the Maryland Clinical Social Work
29 Coalition;
- 30 (xi) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys'
31 Association; and

1 (xii) up to three members of the general public who are actively
2 involved in the field of child protection.

3 (c) The membership of the Task Force shall reasonably reflect the
4 geographic diversity of the State.

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

6 (e) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide staff
7 for the Task Force with assistance from the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect.

8 (f) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

12 (g) The Task Force shall:

13 (1) hold hearings throughout the State and receive testimony from
14 individuals, State and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other
15 public and private organizations;

16 (2) invite representatives from interested stakeholder groups,
17 including child abuse survivors, caseworkers, mental health professionals, foster care
18 providers, and representatives of religious organizations, to testify at public meetings
19 held at various locations throughout the State;

20 (3) study:

21 (i) child abuse and neglect cases throughout the State; and

22 (ii) best practices throughout the United States regarding laws
23 and systems designed to protect children and prevent child abuse and neglect; and

24 (4) make recommendations regarding:

25 (i) goals for State policies to prevent child abuse and neglect;

26 (ii) whether changes to the State's child abuse and neglect laws
27 should be made, including whether criminal penalties should be established for the
28 intentional failure to report child abuse or neglect;

29 (iii) methods for improving systems for reporting child abuse and
30 neglect;

1 (iv) methods to foster excellence among multidisciplinary teams
2 investigating child abuse and neglect and cooperation among State agencies and
3 between the State and local governments that handle child abuse and neglect cases;

4 (v) methods for improving access to medical care and mental
5 health services and treatment;

6 (vi) methods for increasing public awareness about child abuse
7 and neglect;

8 (vii) methods for increasing funding to prevent and address
9 childhood trauma;

10 (viii) methods for improving the training of professionals
11 described in § 5–704 of the Family Law Article on the reporting of child abuse and
12 neglect; and

13 (ix) methods to adopt and implement policies addressing the
14 prevention of child abuse that may include age–appropriate curricula for students in
15 prekindergarten through fifth grade.

16 (h) On or before December 1, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings
17 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State
18 Government Article, the General Assembly.

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.