

Chapter 620

(House Bill 883)

AN ACT concerning

~~Task Force to Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Study of Safe and Healthy School Hours for Maryland Public Schools~~

~~FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Safe and Healthy School Hours 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 alternative school day starting times 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 Safe and Healthy School Hours for Maryland Public Schools.~~

FOR the purpose of requiring the Office of Public Health Services in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct a certain study of safe and healthy school hours for Maryland public schools, consult with certain persons, make recommendations relating to alternative school day starting times for Maryland public schools, and submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a study of safe and healthy school hours for public schools in Maryland.

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

~~(a) There is a Task Force to Study Safe and Healthy School Hours 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:~~

~~(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 health care;~~
 - ~~(viii) one representative of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics;~~
 - ~~(ix) one doctor who specializes in child and adolescent sleep disorders;~~
 - ~~(x) one representative of the Maryland Sleep Society;~~
 - ~~(xi) one representative from the Maryland Department of Transportation;~~
 - ~~(xii) one representative from Start School Later;~~
 - ~~(xiii) one representative of the Maryland PTA;~~
 - ~~(xiv) one student enrolled in a Maryland public high school; and~~
 - ~~(xv) 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:~~

(a) The Office of Public Health Services in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall conduct a study of safe and healthy school hours for Maryland public schools.

(b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the Office of Public Health Services shall:

(1) review the science on the sleep needs of children and adolescents, including effects of sleep deprivation on academic performance and benefits of sufficient sleep;

(2) review and study how other school systems have implemented alternative school day starting times and how various activities in those school systems were impacted and scheduled around the changes; ~~and~~

(3) consult with the following persons:

(i) the State Board of Education;

(ii) the Maryland ~~boards of education~~ Association of Boards of Education;

(iii) the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland;

~~(iii)~~ (iv) the Maryland State Education Association;

~~(iv)~~ (v) the Maryland Association of School Principals;

~~(v)~~ (vi) the State Department of Education;

~~(vi)~~ (vii) a mental health professional who specializes in young adult and adolescent health issues;

(viii) the School Psychologists Association;

~~(vii)~~ (ix) a pediatrician who has expertise in adolescent health care;

~~(viii)~~ (x) the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics;

disorders;

~~(ix)~~ *(xi)* a doctor who specializes in child and adolescent sleep disorders;

~~(x)~~ *(xii)* the Maryland Sleep Society;

~~(xi)~~ *(xiii)* the Maryland Department of Transportation;

~~(xii)~~ *(xiv)* Start School Later;

~~(xiii)~~ *(xv)* the Maryland PTA;

~~(xiv)~~ *(xvi)* a student enrolled in a Maryland public high school;

~~(xv)~~ *(xvii)* an athletic director or a coach employed by a Maryland public middle or high school who has expertise in after-school sports activities; and

~~(xvi)~~ *(xviii)* one representative of the Maryland School Psychologist Association; and

~~(3)~~ *(4)* make recommendations regarding whether public schools in the State should establish a policy regarding a school starting time of 8:00 a.m. or later.

~~(e)~~ *(c)* On or before December 31, 2014, ~~the Task Force~~ the Office of Public Health Services 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, 2014. ~~It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2014.