HOUSE BILL 883

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HB 1462/13 – W&M CF SB 14

By: **Delegates A. Miller, Arora, Barkley, Barve, Bobo, Boteler, Carr, Cullison, Dumais, Fraser–Hidalgo, Frick, George, Gutierrez, Guzzone, Hucker, A. Kelly, McMillan, Pena–Melnyk, S. Robinson, F. Turner, and A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2014
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study 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.

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;

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
[Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.

(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:

(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) 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.

(g) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force 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.