HOUSE BILL 1035

E3, F1 4lr0620

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2014
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Prince George's County Juvenile Court and School Safety Workgroup – Continuation, Membership, and Duties

PG 305–14

FOR the purpose of altering the membership and duties of the Prince George's County Juvenile Court and School Safety Workgroup; requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Prince George's County Delegation on or before a certain date; extending the termination date of the Workgroup; and generally relating to the Prince George's County Juvenile Court and School Safety Workgroup.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 677 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2013
Section 1(b), (f), and (g) and 2

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Chapter 677 of the Acts of 2013

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

(b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

(1) the Chair of the Prince George's County Delegation to the House of Delegates, or the Chair's designee;

(2) the Chair of the Prince George's County Delegation to the Senate, or the Chair's designee;

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

(3) the Chair of the Prince George's County Council, or the Chair's designee;

(4) a representative from the Prince George's County Police Department, appointed by the Prince George's County Chief of Police;

(5) a representative from Prince George's County Public Schools, appointed by the Superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools;

(6) a representative from the Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff, appointed by the Sheriff of Prince George's County;

(7) a representative from the Department of Juvenile Services appointed to the Prince George's County region, appointed by the Secretary of Juvenile Services;

(8) a representative from the Office of the Public Defender serving District 5 who works in the Juvenile Protection Division, appointed by the District Public Defender;

(9) a representative from the Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County who works in the Juvenile Division, appointed by the Prince George's County State's Attorney;

(10) a member of the Prince George's County School Board, appointed by the chair of the School Board;

(11) a school psychologist working in Prince George's County, appointed by the President of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association;

(12) the Director of Security Services for Prince George's County Public Schools; and

(13) **[**the following**]** **TWO** members appointed by the Prince George's County Executive**[**:

(i) a representative from the Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Local Management Board); and

(ii) a representative of the Prince George's County Department of Family Services**]**.

(f) The Workgroup shall:

(1) review and analyze school arrest and referral data collected by the Department of Juvenile Services and the Prince George's County school system and

based on that data, identify the most common offenses for which students are arrested and referred to juvenile court;

(2) recommend interagency policies to reduce the number of school–based arrests and referrals for certain misdemeanor offenses to the Department of Juvenile Services and the juvenile court by diverting more youth to school– and community–based programs, with the goal to decrease the overrepresentation of African American youth in the juvenile justice system;

(3) recommend strategies to utilize more fully current resources and expand school– and community–based support services for youth who exhibit behavior problems in school;

(4) recommend a criteria–based, decision making process for referring students to school– or community–based programs and services instead of to the juvenile justice system for misdemeanor–type delinquent acts involving offenses identified by the Workgroup;

(5) recommend criteria for diversion programs developed for juveniles who have been charged with less serious delinquent acts and who the juvenile court believe would benefit from community alternatives in lieu of probation or commitment to the Department of Juvenile Services;

(6) **[**hold at least two public meetings before October 1, 2013, during which the Workgroup seeks testimony from the public and juvenile advocacy groups**]** **DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES DETERMINED BY THE WORKGROUP TO WARRANT FURTHER REVIEW, STUDY, OR CHANGE**; and

(7) develop a Collaborative Action Plan to reduce the number of school–based arrests and referrals to the juvenile court.

(g) On or before December 15, **[**2013**]** **2014**, the Workgroup shall report its findings, action plan, and recommendations to the Prince George's County Delegation.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of **[**1 year**]** **2 YEARS** and 7 months and, at the end of December 31, **[**2014**]** **2015**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.