

SENATE BILL 925

E1, E4

4lr2823

By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study Computer Crimes Against Children and Child Pornography Crimes in Maryland

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Computer Crimes Against Children and Child Pornography Crimes in Maryland; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Computer Crimes Against Children and Child Pornography Crimes in Maryland.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Computer Crimes Against Children and Child Pornography Crimes in Maryland.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(4) the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, or the Executive Director's designee; and

(5) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) two representatives of the Maryland Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force;

(ii) two representatives of Child Advocacy Centers in the Maryland Children's Alliance;

(iii) one representative of the judiciary;

(iv) two representatives of local sheriff departments;

(v) two educators; and

(vi) one representative of a State Attorney's office.

(c) (1) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly designate the chair of the Task Force.

(2) The Task Force may establish subcommittees as necessary to fulfill the duties of the Task Force.

(d) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention 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) (1) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations with regard to:

(i) the effectiveness of State laws, policies, and practices relating to Internet crimes against children and child pornography;

(ii) the availability of resources needed to address Internet crimes against children and child pornography;

(iii) the availability of public education to inform parents, teachers, and children about Internet safety and victimization prevention;

(iv) providing a comprehensive, multi-agency response to the issues of Internet crimes against children and child pornography, including how to identify, investigate, apprehend, and successfully prosecute offenders who use the Internet, online communications systems, and other technologies to sexually exploit children; and

(v) the role that Child Advocacy Centers in Maryland can be given in the investigation and prosecution of child pornography cases and the intervention on behalf of child computer crime victims.

(2) In studying and making recommendations, the Task Force shall consider:

(i) the best practices in the field; and

(ii) the costs and benefits of existing procedures and recommended changes.

(g) (1) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall report its preliminary findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

(2) On or before December 31, 2015, the Task Force shall report its final 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 October 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of September 30, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.