

SENATE BILL 252

P4

4r0885
CF HB 700

By: **Senators Muse, Brochin, Jacobs, Raskin, and Shank**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2014

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 26, 2014

CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

Task Force Joint Committee on Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight – Public Hearings on Workplace Bullying in State Agencies

FOR the purpose of ~~establishing the Task Force on Workplace Bullying in State Agencies; 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 certain standing committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Workplace Bullying in State Agencies~~ requiring the Joint Committee on Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight to hold a certain minimum number of public hearings on workplace bullying in State agencies before a certain deadline; authorizing the Joint Committee to accept testimony on certain subjects at a public hearing held under this Act; requiring the Joint Committee to give a certain notice to certain State agencies; requiring a State agency to give a certain notice to certain employees in a certain manner; and generally relating to workplace bullying in State agencies.

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

(a) ~~There is a Task Force on Workplace Bullying in State Agencies.~~

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.



- ~~(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:~~
- ~~(1) the cochaairs of the Joint Committee on Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight, or the cochaairs' designees;~~
 - ~~(2) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;~~
 - ~~(3) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary's designee;~~
 - ~~(4) an assistant Attorney General with experience in labor and employment law, appointed by the Attorney General;~~
 - ~~(5) the Executive Director of AFSCME Maryland, or the Executive Director's designee; and~~
 - ~~(6) six representatives of stakeholder organizations, appointed by the Governor.~~
- ~~(c) The Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee, shall chair the Task Force.~~
- ~~(d) The Department of Budget and Management 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) study the effects of workplace bullying in State agencies;~~
 - ~~(2) develop a survey that can be used to collect data regarding:
 - ~~(i) the prevalence of workplace bullying in State agencies; and~~
 - ~~(ii) statistics on characteristics of employees who are bullied, including age, gender, ethnicity, and education level; and~~~~
 - ~~(3) make recommendations regarding:~~

~~(i) a way to report and track workplace bullying in State agencies;~~

~~(ii) a definition of workplace bullying that can be used uniformly across State agencies; and~~

~~(iii) ways to address and prevent workplace bullying in State agencies.~~

~~(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 Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee.~~

(a) Before the start of the 2015 regular legislative session, the Joint Committee on Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight shall hold at least two public hearings on workplace bullying in State agencies.

(b) At a public hearing held under subsection (a) of this section, the Joint Committee may accept testimony on:

(1) the nature and prevalence of workplace bullying in State agencies;

(2) the effects of workplace bullying on employees of State agencies;

(3) possible measures to address and prevent workplace bullying in State agencies; and

(4) any other information relevant to workplace bullying in State agencies.

(c) The Joint Committee shall notify each State agency of the time and location of any public hearing held under subsection (a) of this section at least 3 weeks before the scheduled date of the public hearing.

(d) Each State agency shall notify its employees by electronic mail of the time and location of any public hearing held under subsection (a) of this section at least 2 weeks before the scheduled date of the public hearing.

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