

HOUSE BILL 763

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5lr1613

By: **Delegates Cullison, Ebersole, Luedtke, A. Miller, Platt, Turner, and M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2015

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Effectiveness of Teacher Education Programs in the**
3 **Instruction of Reading**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Effectiveness of Teacher
5 Education Programs in the Instruction of Reading; providing for the composition,
6 chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from
7 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain
8 expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding
9 certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and
10 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain
11 date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task
12 Force to Study the Effectiveness of Teacher Education Programs in the Instruction
13 of Reading.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Effectiveness of Teacher Education
17 Programs in the Instruction of Reading.

18 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

19 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
20 the Senate;

21 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
22 House;

23 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

2 (5) the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the
3 Chancellor's designee;

4 (6) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Community
5 Colleges, or the Executive Director's designee;

6 (7) the President of the Maryland Independent College and University
7 Association, or the President's designee;

8 (8) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Boards of
9 Education, or the Executive Director's designee;

10 (9) the Executive Director of the Public School Superintendents
11 Association of Maryland, or the Executive Director's designee;

12 (10) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

13 (i) two representatives of exclusive bargaining units in the State;

14 (ii) one primary or secondary school administrator in the State;

15 (iii) two primary or secondary school teachers in the State;

16 (iv) two parents of students who attend a primary or secondary
17 school in the State; and

18 (v) two faculty members who teach at institutions of higher
19 education in the State that have a teacher education program.

20 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

21 (d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

22 (e) A member of the Task Force:

23 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

24 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
25 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

26 (f) The Task Force shall:

27 (1) study and assess whether students in the State are meeting age- and
28 grade-appropriate benchmarks for reading comprehension;

1 (2) study whether current teacher education courses are adequately
2 preparing teachers to teach students how to read;

3 (3) study whether current assessments given at the completion of teacher
4 education courses are adequately assessing whether an individual is prepared to teach
5 reading;

6 (4) study whether current teacher education courses include an emphasis
7 on phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, fluency, and comprehension;

8 (5) research teacher education courses relating to reading instruction in
9 other states, compile a list of best practices, and assess whether any of the findings should
10 be applied in the State;

11 (6) research other states that require additional assessments or
12 certifications specifically designed to measure a teacher's ability to teach reading, compile
13 a list of best practices, and assess whether any of the findings should be applied in the
14 State; and

15 (7) make recommendations regarding:

16 (i) whether the State should require additional teacher education
17 coursework, assessments, or certifications specific to an individual's ability to teach reading
18 instruction before an individual is given a credential to teach in the State;

19 (ii) funding requirements and budgetary priorities necessary to
20 carry out any legislative or policy initiatives of the Task Force; and

21 (iii) any other relevant issues or considerations identified by the Task
22 Force.

23 (g) On or before December 31, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and
24 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
25 Government Article, the General Assembly.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2016,
28 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
29 of no further force and effect.