

Chapter 91

(House Bill 456)

AN ACT concerning

Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking

FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking; specifying the purpose of the Workgroup; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; prohibiting a member of the Workgroup from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; establishing the duties of the Workgroup; requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations 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 Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking.

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

- (a) There is a Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking.
- (b) The purpose of the Workgroup is to study:
 - (1) legal protections for youth victims of human trafficking; and
 - (2) the provision of services for youth victims of human trafficking.
- (c) The Workgroup consists of the following members:
 - (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
 - (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
 - (3) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (4) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (5) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (6) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;

(7) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;

~~(8)~~ (8) the Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee;

~~(9)~~ (9) one representative from the Office of the Public Defender, Juvenile Division, appointed by the Public Defender; and

~~(9)~~ (10) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault;

(ii) one representative of the Governor's Office for Children;

(iii) one representative of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention;

(iv) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association;

(v) one representative of a local law enforcement agency;

(vi) one representative of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children;

(vii) one representative of Turnaround, Inc.;

~~(viii) one teacher who teaches in a Maryland school;~~

(viii) one educator who works in a student service capacity and who is nominated by the Maryland State Education Association;

(ix) two representatives of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force;

(x) two representatives of national organizations that support victims of human trafficking; and

(xi) two survivors of human trafficking.

(d) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Workgroup.

(e) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

(f) A member of the Workgroup:

- (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but
 - (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- (g) The Workgroup shall:
- (1) compile existing information on and identify the needs of youth victims of human trafficking and identify the public and private sector programs and resources currently available to meet those needs;
 - (2) identify gaps in public and private sector programs and resources currently available to meet the needs of youth victims of human trafficking;
 - (3) collect and compile data on the number of youth victims of human trafficking in the State, including the number of youth victims in each jurisdiction of the State;
 - (4) evaluate current State safe harbor policies and legal protections for youth victims of human trafficking; and
 - (5) make recommendations regarding:
 - (i) legislation and policy initiatives to address the provision of services and legal protections for youth victims of human trafficking in the State;
 - (ii) the collection of data to identify youth victims of human trafficking in the State;
 - (iii) funding requirements and budgetary priorities to address the needs of youth victims of human trafficking in the State; and
 - (iv) any other relevant issues or considerations identified by the Workgroup.
- (h) On or before December 1, 2015, the Workgroup 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 June 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2015.