

HOUSE BILL 429

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6lr1414

By: Delegates Patterson, Hixson, Afzali, Angel, Atterbeary, Barkley, D. Barnes, Barron, Brooks, Carr, Conaway, Dumais, Ebersole, Fennell, Gilchrist, Hayes, Haynes, Hill, Hornberger, C. Howard, Jackson, Jameson, Jones, Kelly, Long, Luedtke, McComas, McConkey, McCray, McMillan, Metzgar, A. Miller, Morhaim, O'Donnell, Pena-Melnyk, Platt, Proctor, Reilly, Sample-Hughes, Sanchez, Shoemaker, Simonaire, Smith, Sydnor, Tarlau, Turner, Valentino-Smith, A. Washington, M. Washington, and West

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 27, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Combat Habitual Student Truancy**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Combat Habitual Student Truancy;
4 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a
5 member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
6 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make
7 recommendations regarding certain matters relating to habitual student truancy;
8 requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor
9 and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination
10 of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Combat Habitual Student
11 Truancy.

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

13 That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Combat Habitual Student Truancy.

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

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.



- 1 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
2 the Senate;
- 3 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
4 House;
- 5 (3) the Attorney General of Maryland, or the Attorney General's designee;
- 6 (4) ~~one member of the Judiciary, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court~~
7 ~~of Appeals;~~
- 8 ~~(5)~~ the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- 9 ~~(6)~~ (5) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
10 designee;
- 11 ~~(7)~~ (6) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- 12 ~~(8)~~ (7) ~~the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's~~
13 ~~designee~~ one representative of Morgan State University, appointed by the President of the
14 University;
- 15 ~~(9)~~ (8) one representative of the Maryland Association of Community
16 Colleges, appointed by the Executive Director of the Association;
- 17 ~~(10)~~ (9) one representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of
18 Education, appointed by the Executive Director of the Association;
- 19 ~~(11)~~ (10) one representative of the Public School Superintendents
20 Association of Maryland, appointed by the Executive Director of the Association;
- 21 ~~(12)~~ (11) one representative of the Maryland State Education Association,
22 appointed by the Executive Director of the Association;
- 23 ~~(13)~~ (12) one representative of the Maryland Association of Pupil
24 Personnel, appointed by the President of the Association;
- 25 ~~(14)~~ (13) one representative of the Maryland School Psychologists'
26 Association, appointed by the President of the Association;
- 27 ~~(15)~~ (14) one representative of the Maryland School Counselor
28 Association, appointed by the President of the Association;
- 29 ~~(16)~~ (15) one representative of the Maryland Association of Secondary
30 School Principals, appointed by the President of the Association;

1 ~~(17)~~ (16) one representative of the Maryland Association of Elementary
2 School Principals, appointed by the President of the Association;

3 ~~(18)~~ (17) one representative of the Maryland Parent Teacher Association,
4 appointed by the President of the Association;

5 ~~(19)~~ (18) one representative of the Advocates for Children and Youth,
6 appointed by the Executive Director of the organization;

7 ~~(20)~~ (19) one representative of the Maryland Center for School Safety,
8 appointed by the Executive Director of the organization; ~~and~~

9 ~~(21)~~ (20) one representative of the Y of Central Maryland, appointed by
10 the Chief Executive Officer of the organization; and

11 (21) one representative of the Student Services and Strategic Planning
12 Branch of the State Department of Education, appointed by the Executive Director of the
13 Student Services and Strategic Planning Branch.

14 (c) The ~~State Superintendent of Schools or the Superintendent's designee~~
15 member who is a representative of Morgan State University shall chair the Task Force.

16 (d) ~~The State Department of Education~~ Morgan State University shall provide
17 staff for the Task Force.

18 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

22 (f) The Task Force shall:

23 (1) study and assess how the structure and effectiveness of the State's
24 existing truancy courts can be improved;

25 (2) study the State's chronic student absentee rates and assess whether
26 chronic student absenteeism influences student truancy rates;

27 (3) identify best practices regarding:

28 (i) how records relating to student absences are gathered and
29 maintained; and

30 (ii) the proper time a pupil personnel worker should be notified of a
31 student's chronic absenteeism or habitual truancy;

1 (4) determine methods of encouraging State agencies to work
2 collaboratively to reduce habitual student truancy;

3 (5) determine whether the following actions would be helpful in combating
4 habitual student truancy:

5 (i) requiring each local school system to provide evening high school
6 programs;

7 (ii) revamping current admissions policies to alternative programs;

8 (iii) expanding the Child in Need of Supervision pilot program to all
9 counties in the State; and

10 (iv) allowing school personnel to file a Child in Need of Assistance
11 petition with the appropriate court; and

12 (6) make recommendations on how best to combat habitual student
13 truancy in the State.

14 (g) On or before July 1, 2017, the Task Force shall report its findings and
15 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
16 Government Article, the General Assembly.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
18 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2018,
19 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
20 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.