

HOUSE BILL 1191

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6lr3225

By: **Delegates Ebersole, Brooks, Cullison, Hill, Lam, Luedtke, Pena–Melnyk, Platt, Turner, Valderrama, and Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study an Online Program for Paraprofessionals Assisting**
3 **Students With Autism**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study an Online Program for
5 Paraprofessionals Assisting Students With Autism; 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 an Online Program for Paraprofessionals Assisting Students With
13 Autism.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study an Online Program for Paraprofessionals
17 Assisting Students With Autism.

18 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following voting members:

19 (1) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
20 designee;

21 (2) the President of the Maryland State Education Association, or the
22 President's designee;

23 (3) the President of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, or
24 the President's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) the Executive Director of the Maryland Disability Law Center, or the
2 Executive Director's designee;

3 (5) a representative of an institution of higher education, appointed by the
4 State Superintendent of Schools;

5 (6) a representative who works with a support or advocacy group engaged
6 in autism awareness and services in Maryland, chosen by the State Department of
7 Education; and

8 (7) a parent of a student with autism, chosen by the State Department of
9 Education.

10 (c) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's designee,
11 shall be designated as the chair of the Task Force.

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

13 (e) The Task Force may be expanded at the discretion of the chair, but any
14 additional members will be nonvoting members.

15 (f) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

19 (g) The Task Force shall:

20 (1) establish an overall plan to create a program to provide online training
21 to paraprofessionals who work with students with autism;

22 (2) investigate existing programs and current implementation practices;

23 (3) analyze online training methods regarding supporting students with
24 autism; and

25 (4) make recommendations on how best to establish an online training
26 program for paraprofessionals who work with students with autism.

27 (h) On or before December 31, 2016, the Task Force shall report its findings and
28 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
29 Government Article, the General Assembly.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2017,
3 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
4 of no further force and effect.