

# HOUSE BILL 1061

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By: **Delegates A. Washington, Ebersole, Sanchez, Tarlau, M. Washington, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2017

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Emergency and Evacuation Plans for Students, Staff, and**  
3 **Visitors With Disabilities in Public School Facilities**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Emergency and Evacuation Plans  
5 for Students, Staff, and Visitors With Disabilities in Public School Facilities;  
6 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a  
7 member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the  
8 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make  
9 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the State Department of  
10 Education to brief the Task Force on certain emergency planning guidelines and  
11 certain procedures for including accommodations for certain students on or before a  
12 certain date; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to  
13 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the  
14 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Emergency  
15 and Evacuation Plans for Students, Staff, and Visitors With Disabilities in Public  
16 School Facilities.

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

19 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Emergency and Evacuation Plans for Students,  
20 Staff, and Visitors With Disabilities in Public School Facilities.

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

22 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
23 the Senate;

24 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
25 House;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (4) the President of the State Board of Education, or the President's  
4 designee;

5 (5) the President of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, or  
6 the President's designee;

7 (6) the Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee;

8 (7) the State Fire Marshal, or the Fire Marshal's designee;

9 (8) the Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, or  
10 the Executive Director's designee;

11 (9) the Agency Equity Officer for the Maryland State Department of  
12 Education, or the Agency Equity Officer's designee;

13 (10) the President of the Maryland Association of Student Councils, or the  
14 President's designee;

15 (11) the President of the Maryland Association of Elementary School  
16 Principals, or the President's designee;

17 (12) the President of the Maryland Association of Secondary School  
18 Principals, or the President's designee;

19 (13) the President of the Maryland Association of Secondary School  
20 Principals, or the President's designee; and

21 (14) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) one representative of the Special Education and Early  
23 Intervention Division of the State Department of Education;

24 (ii) one representative of the School Health Services Division of the  
25 State Department of Education;

26 (iii) one representative of the Division of Student, Family, and School  
27 Support of the State Department of Education;

28 (iv) one representative of the School Facilities Branch of the State  
29 Department of Education;

1 (v) one representative of the State Emergency Operations Center of  
2 the Maryland Emergency Management Agency;

3 (vi) one representative of the Maryland Coordination and Analysis  
4 Center of the Maryland State Police;

5 (vii) one parent of a student with a disability who attends an  
6 elementary school;

7 (viii) one parent of a student with a disability who attends a middle  
8 school;

9 (ix) one parent of a student with a disability who attends a high  
10 school;

11 (x) one student with a disability who attends high school;

12 (xi) one student who attends high school who has a sibling with a  
13 disability;

14 (xii) one staff member with a disability who works at a school facility;

15 (xiii) one faculty member with a disability who works at a school  
16 facility; and

17 (xiv) a representative of the Arc Maryland.

18 (c) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's designee,  
19 shall be the chair of the Task Force.

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

21 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

25 (f) The Task Force shall:

26 (1) study:

27 (i) the current local school system emergency plans developed in  
28 accordance with the criteria specified in the Maryland State Department of Education  
29 Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools (COMAR

1 13A.02.02.03) to determine if the emergency plans effectively accommodate and safeguard  
2 students, staff, and visitors with disabilities who use public school facilities;

3 (ii) national best practices for accommodating and safeguarding  
4 students, staff, and visitors with disabilities who use public school buildings;

5 (iii) national best practices for the systematic and uniform review of  
6 school emergency plans;

7 (iv) national best practices for engaging school health services in  
8 formulating school plans for students with disabilities; and

9 (v) national best practices for the inclusion of an individualized  
10 evacuation/emergency plan in the individualized education program of a student and the  
11 annual review of the plan by the individualized education program team in the school; and

12 (2) make recommendations regarding:

13 (i) revisions to the Maryland State Department of Education  
14 Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools to ensure that:

15 1. Maryland is in compliance with national best practices for  
16 accommodating and safeguarding students, staff, and visitors with disabilities who use  
17 public school buildings; and

18 2. students, staff, and visitors with disabilities who use  
19 public school facilities are effectively accommodated and safeguarded during emergencies;

20 (ii) the adoption of regulations that require a student's  
21 individualized education program to include accommodations for the student during an  
22 emergency; and

23 (iii) any other findings of the Task Force.

24 (g) On or before October 1, 2017, the State Department of Education shall brief  
25 the Task Force on:

26 (1) the current Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems  
27 and Schools and the current school emergency plan in each local school system; and

28 (2) the current procedures for including accommodations for a student  
29 during an emergency in a student's individualized education program.

30 (h) On or before January 1, 2018, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
31 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
32 Government Article, the General Assembly.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
2 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2018,  
3 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and  
4 of no further force and effect.