

HOUSE BILL 1605

F1, R6

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By: **Delegates Miele, Fraser-Hidalgo, Angel, Barkley, Ciliberti, Corderman, Folden, Frush, Hill, Hixson, Hornberger, McComas, McCray, Saab, and Valentino-Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Maryland Student Transportation Safety**

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

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force on Maryland Student Transportation Safety.

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

16 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
17 the Senate;

18 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Education, or the Secretary's designee;

21 (4) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the Motor Vehicle Administrator, or the Administrator's designee;

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

3 (7) one representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education,
4 appointed by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education;

5 (8) one representative of the Public School Superintendents Association of
6 Maryland, appointed by the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland;

7 (9) one representative of the State Department of Education's Division of
8 Special Education/Early Intervention Services, appointed by the Division of Special
9 Education/Early Intervention Services;

10 (10) one representative of the Maryland PTA, appointed by the Maryland
11 PTA;

12 (11) one representative of the Maryland Association of Student Councils,
13 appointed by the Maryland Association of Student Councils;

14 (12) one representative of the Association of Independent Maryland & DC
15 Schools, appointed by the Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools;

16 (13) one representative of the Service Employees International Union Local
17 500 with experience as a school bus driver, appointed by the Service Employees
18 International Union Local 500;

19 (14) one representative of the Maryland School Bus Contractors Association,
20 appointed by the Maryland School Bus Contractors Association;

21 (15) one representative of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association, appointed
22 by the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association;

23 (16) one representative of the Chesapeake Region Safety Council, appointed
24 by the Chesapeake Region Safety Council; and

25 (17) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties, appointed
26 by the Maryland Association of Counties.

27 (c) The Secretary of Education, or the Secretary's designee, shall chair the Task
28 Force.

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

30 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

3 (f) (1) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding the
4 safe transportation of students on school buses in the State.

5 (2) The study shall include an examination of:

6 (i) the safest manner for transporting students on a school bus;

7 (ii) the feasibility of requiring seat belts on school buses;

8 (iii) the costs and benefits associated with the installation and use of
9 seat belts on school buses;

10 (iv) liability issues associated with seat belt use on school buses;

11 (v) enforcement issues associated with seat belt use on school buses;

12 and

13 (vii) any other issue that the Task Force considers necessary for
14 making its recommendations.

15 (g) On or before January 1, 2019, the Task Force shall report its findings to the
16 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate
17 Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Environment and Transportation
18 Committee.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
20 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2019, this
21 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
22 further force and effect.