

## HB 0832 – Homeschool Advisory Council Creation - Amendment Recommendations

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*Homeschooling 3 children ages 7, 12, 14 since 2011 and leader of a homeschooling collective of families in the DMV and beyond.*

### Position: Favorable with Amendments

*Recommendation 1: Change the Name to Homeschool Resource Accessibility Task Force*

Concern: This council is being created via the task force creation vehicle precisely because as it states the mission is to: FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Homeschool Advisory Council in the State 4 Department of Education **to gather information on the needs of homeschool parents 5 and homeschool umbrella schools and advise the State Superintendent of Schools, 6 the State Board of Education, the General Assembly, and the Governor on matters 7 relating to homeschooling;** and generally relating to the Maryland Homeschool 8 Advisory Council

- a. The group is inappropriately named and positioned as a council rather than a task force. By definition, the proposal organizes this particular group as a task force and not a council. Councils **serve as oversight and coordinating groups based on functions pertinent to a mission statement.** Additionally, councils shepherd and foster a shared governance model and seek to increase communication across an organization/collective entity. Members may be elected or appointed to discuss, deliberate, and advise.
- b. Your mission/purpose is actually one of a task force and should operate in the short-term to realize its goals. Task forces are **groups established to work on a single defined task, activity, or specific problem.** Task forces **are short in duration (less than two years) and specific in focus.** Task forces are **ideal for identifying issues, collecting information, reviewing and analyzing the information, and making recommendations to a committee.**

*Recommendation 2: Clearly define the tasks, activities and the problem set* this legislatively created group will resolve after conducting an extensive survey of homeschooling communities. See recommendations for where and how to survey below.

*Recommendation 3: Create language that will include a commitment to execute a thorough education and recruitment plan to identify and secure the broadest representation across homeschooling philosophies, methodologies and approaches to serve on the task force. Homeschooling is not a monolith.* No survey has been undertaken to identify the vast majority of individually defined homeschooling family academies. Homeschoolers are independent private school ran by households that sometimes exercise the option partner with community groups like umbrellas and other education coordination providers.

*Recommendation 4: Deploy the survey of homeschooling needs, wants and recommendations and a joint education campaign delivered in part through the county homeschool reviews board which have the greatest captive audience of all homeschooling families in Maryland. Every homeschooling must be invited to participate in this survey under the genuine of auspices of promoting and protecting homeschooling,* not creating an entity that would create more restrictions over independent homeschools.

*Recommendation 5: strike the language identifying homeschooler appointees/applicants by county.* Our methods are not distinguished by county. They are more influenced by culture and person experience with education. Our Counties and Cities. Therefore, an extensive survey of our community before surveying is paramount before prospecting for appointees/applicants to this council (task force). Then an equity-assured application process should be deployed to elect task force members to positions.