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**By: Delegates Valderrama, R. Baker, Benson, Conroy, Crumlin, Davis, Exum, Frush, Healey, Howard, Hubbard, B. Hughes, Menes, Morgan, Muse, Palumbo, Patterson, Pitkin, Proctor, Rosapepe, and Vallario**

Introduced and read first time:

Assigned to:

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County - Task Force to Study Violence in Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Violence in Schools in Prince  
4 George's County; providing for the membership, duties, and staffing of the Task  
5 Force; requiring the Task Force to issue a certain report that assesses certain issues;  
6 providing an effective date for this Act; providing for the termination of this Act;  
7 and generally relating to the establishment of the Task Force to Study Violence in  
8 Schools.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
10 MARYLAND, That:

11 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Violence in Public Schools in Prince George's  
12 County.

13 (b) The Task Force consists of nine members as follows:

14 (1) the County Executive, or a designee of the County Executive;

15 (2) the Chairperson of the County Council, or a designee of the  
16 Chairperson;

17 (3) the Superintendent of Schools of the County, or a designee of the  
18 Superintendent;

19 (4) the State's Attorney for the County;

20 (5) the Chief of Police of the County, or a designee of the Chief of Police;

21 (6) the President of the Prince George's County Council of PTA;

22 (7) a principal of a high school in Prince George's County, appointed by the  
23 Prince George's County Board of Education;

24 (8) the President of the Student Government Association of OxonHill  
25 Senior High School; and

26 (9) the Director of the Department of Social Services for Prince George's  
27 County, or a designee of the Director.

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1 (c) The Task Force shall include in its study a review of the current policies in  
2 public schools in Prince George's County regarding the control of violent student  
3 behavior.

4 (d) The Task Force shall assess the following issues in its study:

5 (1) efforts by teachers and administration officials to identify at an early age  
6 children prone to violent behavior;

7 (2) alternatives to suspension and expulsion;

8 (3) alternative education programs for students with behavior problems;

9 (4) conflict resolution strategies that may be taught at all grade levels;

10 (5) a review of effective programs from around the nation on curbing youth  
11 violence;

12 (6) identification of the needs of youth who are presenting disruptive  
13 behaviors;

14 (7) ways to increase parental and family involvement in the schools;

15 (8) a review of school discipline codes for fairness, consistency, and  
16 effectiveness;

17 (9) ways to design a safe and secure school environment, including programs  
18 that involve students, parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and neighbors;

19 (10) strategies for reporting gang activities, counseling programs for children  
20 affected by gang activity, and policies for dealing with incidents of violent, organized,  
21 disruptive behavior; and

22 (11) the development of a mentor program to enable students to benefit from  
23 regular interaction from adults, students, and staff.

24 (e) The members of the Task Force shall elect a chairperson.

25 (f) The Prince George's County Board of Education shall provide professional,  
26 administrative, and clerical staffing support to the Task Force.

27 (g) The Task Force shall issue a final report of its findings and recommendations  
28 to the members of the Prince George's County Delegation of the Senate and the House of  
29 Delegates on or before December 15, 1996.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 June 1, 1996. It shall remain effective until January 1, 1997, and at the end of January 1,  
32 1997, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
33 abrogated and of no further force and effect.