
By: Delegates Healey, Crumlin, Hubbard, Howard, Pitkin, Hixson, Patterson, and Conroy

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 1996
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Multiracial Designations**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Multiracial Designations; providing for
4 the composition, chairman, reimbursement, and staffing of the Task Force;
5 requiring the Task Force to study issues concerning the possible addition of a
6 multiracial category on State forms that seek racial identification information;
7 authorizing the Task Force to exercise certain powers; requiring the Task Force to
8 make a certain report on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of
9 this Act after a certain date; and generally relating to a Task Force on Multiracial
10 Designations.

11 BY adding to

12 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
13 Section 18-310
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, In 1995 the Governor vetoed legislation (House Bill 215) which was
18 passed by the General Assembly and would have required that, in the preparation of a
19 form requiring the identification of race, departments and other units of the State
20 government must include the term "multiracial" as a choice of race; and

21 WHEREAS, It is necessary to address the needs of children in multiracial families,
22 who are effectively forced by the State to prefer one parent over the other when
23 completing forms prepared by the State; and

24 WHEREAS, As is true elsewhere in the United States, the demographics in
25 Maryland are rapidly changing and the number of racially mixed families is increasing;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, The establishment of a multiracial category on State forms would
28 accord children the freedom to choose a self-identity that does not deny a part of who
29 they are; now, therefore,

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

4 18-310.

5 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE ON MULTIRACIAL DESIGNATIONS.

6 (B) (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE COMPOSED OF 13 MEMBERS APPOINTED AS
7 FOLLOWS:

8 (I) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY
9 THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

10 (II) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTED BY
11 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND

12 (III) NINE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

13 (2) OF THE NINE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

14 (I) TWO SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
15 EDUCATION, ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD OF ENGLISH AS A
16 SECOND LANGUAGE (ESOL);

17 (II) ONE SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
18 GENERAL SERVICES WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING STATE FORMS;

19 (III) ONE SHALL BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MINORITY
20 AFFAIRS;

21 (IV) ONE SHALL BE A PRINCIPAL IN A SCHOOL WITH A DIVERSE
22 STUDENT POPULATION;

23 (V) ONE SHALL BE A DEMOGRAPHER;

24 (VI) ONE SHALL BE A GENEALOGIST;

25 (VII) ONE SHALL BE THE NATURAL PARENT OF A MULTIRACIAL
26 CHILD; AND

27 (VIII) ONE SHALL BE THE ADOPTIVE PARENT OF A MULTIRACIAL
28 CHILD.

29 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TASK FORCE.

30 (D) SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

31 (E) THE TASK FORCE SHALL DETERMINE THE TIMES AND PLACES OF ITS
32 MEETINGS.

33 (F) THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE TASK FORCE.

34 (G) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE:

3

1 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION; BUT

2 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
3 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

4 (H) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY ISSUES CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE
5 ADDITION OF A MULTIRACIAL CATEGORY ON STATE FORMS THAT SEEK RACIAL
6 IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.

7 (I) THE TASK FORCE MAY:

8 (1) CONSULT WITH OUTSIDE EXPERTS CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE
9 ADDITION OF A MULTIRACIAL CATEGORY ON GOVERNMENTAL FORMS;

10 (2) RECEIVE ANY TESTIMONY THAT THE TASK FORCE CONSIDERS
11 APPROPRIATE; AND

12 (3) DEVELOP ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT IT CONSIDERS
13 APPROPRIATE FOR CHANGES IN STATUTES, REGULATIONS, OR PROCEDURES.

14 (J) THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
15 TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1312 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
16 ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 1997.

17 (K) THIS SECTION SHALL TERMINATE AND BE OF NO EFFECT AFTER
18 DECEMBER 1, 1997.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 July 1, 1996.