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

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Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 15, 1996

CHAPTER ____

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

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1 WHEREAS, As is true elsewhere in the United States, the demographics in
2 Maryland are rapidly changing and the number of racially mixed families is increasing;
3 and

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

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

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

10 18-310.

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

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

14 (I) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY
15 THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

16 (II) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTED BY
17 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND

18 (III) NINE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

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

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

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

25 (III) ONE SHALL BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MINORITY
26 AFFAIRS;

27 (IV) ONE SHALL BE A PRINCIPAL IN A SCHOOL WITH A DIVERSE
28 STUDENT POPULATION;

29 (V) ONE SHALL BE A DEMOGRAPHER;

30 (VI) ONE SHALL BE A GENEALOGIST;

31 (VII) ONE SHALL BE THE NATURAL PARENT OF A MULTIRACIAL
32 CHILD; AND

33 (VIII) ONE SHALL BE THE ADOPTIVE PARENT OF A MULTIRACIAL
34 CHILD.

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

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

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1 (E) THE TASK FORCE SHALL DETERMINE THE TIMES AND PLACES OF ITS
2 MEETINGS.

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

4 (G) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE:

5 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION; BUT

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

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

11 (I) THE TASK FORCE MAY:

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

14 (2) RECEIVE ANY TESTIMONY THAT THE TASK FORCE CONSIDERS
15 APPROPRIATE; AND

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

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

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

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