

BY: Committee on Ways and Means

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL NO. 697

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 1, strike in their entirety lines 3 through 11 and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of establishing a task force to study and make recommendations on the education of homeless children in the State, including the implementation of the requirements of federal laws regarding the education of homeless children and youth, and the funding of educational initiatives for homeless children and youth; providing for the membership of the task force; providing for the staffing of the task force; requiring a report by a certain date; and generally relating to the Task Force on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth in Maryland.”.

On pages 1 through 6, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 12 on page 1 through line 2 on page 6 and substitute:

“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

That:

(a) There is a Task Force on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth in Maryland.

(b) The Task Force shall review current policies, procedures, and practices for the education of homeless children and youth in the State and make recommendations on:

(1) Requirements for the implementation and compliance with the federal Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, PL 103-382 (1994), by the Maryland State Department of Education and local school systems;

(2) A thorough review of the compliance and enforcement efforts in other states to comply with the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act;

(Over)

(3) Oversight responsibilities of the State Department of Education for the education of homeless children and youth in the State;

(4) Costs and funding sources of programs and activities necessary to meet requirements for the education of homeless children and youth; and

(5) Other matters that the Task Force considers significant in the education of homeless children and youth in the State.

(c) The Task Force shall be composed of 12 members as follows:

(1) One member of the House of Delegates of Maryland, appointed by the Speaker of the House, and who shall be co-chairman of the Task Force;

(2) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate, who shall be co-chairman of the Task Force; and

(3) The following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) A representative of the Department of Budget and Management;

(ii) A representative of the State Department of Education;

(iii) A representative of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

(iv) A representative of the Department of Human Resources;

(v) A representative of a local education agency;

(vi) A member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Homelessness;

(vii) A member of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education;

(viii) Two members of the general public who are providers to and advocates for homeless persons, including shelter providers and representatives of legal advocacy groups; and

(ix) A homeless or formerly homeless parent of school-age children.

(d) The State Board of Education shall provide staff support to the Task Force.

(e) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly by June 1, 1998.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1997.”.