
By: Senators Kelley, Van Hollen, Forehand, Lawlah, and Ruben

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 1997

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Maryland Child Support Guidelines to Ensure Appropriate Child**
3 **Support Awards and the Feasibility of Child Support Cost of Living Adjustments**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Maryland Child Support
5 Guidelines to Ensure Appropriate Child Support Awards and the Feasibility of
6 Child Support Cost of Living Adjustments; specifying the duties of the Task Force;
7 requiring the Task Force to report to certain persons by a certain date; providing for
8 the composition of the Task Force; providing for the termination of the Task Force;
9 and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Maryland Child Support
10 Guidelines to Ensure Appropriate Child Support Awards and the Feasibility of
11 Child Support Cost of Living Adjustments.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Maryland Child Support Guidelines to
15 Ensure Appropriate Child Support Awards and the Feasibility of Child Support Cost of
16 Living Adjustments.

17 (b) The Task Force consists of 15 members as follows:

18 (1) two Senators appointed by the President of the Senate;

19 (2) two Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Human Resources or the Secretary's designee;

21 (4) the Special Secretary for the Office for Children, Youth, and Families or
22 the Special Secretary's designee;

23 (5) the Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;

24 (6) one representative of the Judicial Branch, appointed by the Chief Judge
25 of the Court of Appeals; and

26 (7) seven members appointed by the Governor as follows:

27 (i) one director of a local department of social services;

28 (ii) one law school professor;

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1 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Committee for Children; and

2 (iv) four members at large with knowledge, experience, and interest in
3 child support issues.

4 (c) The Governor shall designate the Chairperson of the Task Force.

5 (d) Staff support for the Task Force shall be provided by the Department of
6 Human Resources.

7 (e) A member of the Board:

8 (1) may not receive compensation; but

9 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
10 Travel Regulations.

11 (f) The Task Force shall:

12 (1) study the Maryland child support guidelines to ensure appropriate child
13 support awards and examine the feasibility of requiring that child support orders include
14 periodic cost of living adjustments; and

15 (2) develop recommendations for the implementation of the requirement.

16 (g) On or before June 1, 1998, the Task Force shall submit a report to the
17 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the
18 General Assembly.

19 (h) The Task Force shall terminate on June 1, 1998.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 July 1, 1997.