

BY: Committee on Ways and Means

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL NO. 572

(First Reading File Bill)

In the sponsor line, strike “and Flanagan” and substitute “Flanagan, and James”; in line 2, strike “Education - Gifted and Talented Students” and substitute “Commission on Funding and Services for Gifted and Talented Student Education in Maryland - Establishment”; strike beginning with “altering” in line 3 down through “students” in line 5 and substitute “establishing the Commission on Funding and Services for Gifted and Talented Student Education in Maryland; providing for the membership and duties of the Commission; requiring the Commission to submit certain reports to the Governor and the General Assembly by certain dates; requiring the Commission to be appointed and meet by certain dates; requiring the Governor to use certain criteria to the extent possible in appointing members to the Commission; requiring the Department of Education to staff the Commission; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Commission on Funding and Services for Gifted and Talented Student Education in Maryland”; strike in their entirety lines 6 through 10, inclusive; in line 12, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”; strike in their entirety lines 13 through 16, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) There is a Commission on Funding and Services for Gifted and Talented Student Education in Maryland.

(b) The Commission shall consist of 23 members as follows:

(1) the Governor, or the Governor's designee, who shall serve as the Chair of the Commission;

(2) a member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

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- (4) the Secretary of Education, or the Secretary's designee;
- (5) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's designee;

(6) a representative of the Higher Education Commission with expertise in education for gifted and talented students, appointed by the Secretary of Higher Education; and

(7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) a member of a local board of education;

(ii) a county superintendent of schools;

(iii) an associate superintendent of instruction and curriculum from a county board of education;

(iv) a local gifted and talented education supervisor;

(v) a representative of the Maryland State Teachers Association;

(vi) a representative of the Baltimore City Teachers Union;

(vii) two representatives of the Maryland Coalition for the Gifted and Talented;

(viii) a representative of a local gifted and talented student education advocacy organization;

(ix) a representative of the Maryland State Parent-Teachers Association;

(x) a parent of a gifted and talented student with special learning needs;

(xi) a representative of the Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University;

(xii) a member with expertise in learning disabilities and other special educational needs;

(xiii) a representative of the Suburban High Tech Council;

(xiv) a representative of the Greater Baltimore High Tech Council;

(xv) a nonsenior representative of the Maryland Association of Student Councils; and

(xvi) a member of the Governor's Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence.

(c) The Commission shall review the status of funding and services for gifted and talented students in major academic areas, the arts, and leadership and make recommendations to:

(1) ensure that all local school districts have appropriate advanced learning opportunities for gifted and talented students in kindergarten through grade 12;

(2) ensure that there is adequate funding for services, teacher preparation, counseling, and other support for meeting the needs of gifted and talented students;

(3) develop accountability standards for gifted and talented education services in Maryland;

(4) ensure that the identification of, and delivery of appropriate services for, traditionally under-represented groups, including but not limited to minorities, non- and limited-English proficient students, students with disabilities, and students living in poverty;

(5) ensure appropriate services for gifted and talented students with special learning problems, including but not limited to learning disabilities, limited English proficiency, emotional disabilities, and attention deficit disorder; and

(6) eliminate administrative obstacles to appropriate services, including obstacles prohibiting dual concurrent enrollment options in middle and high schools, and high schools and colleges, the lack of information about services, the lack of access, including transportation, to

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services, and the inability of schools to report information and test scores to families.

(d) The Commission shall be appointed by August 1, 2000 and begin meeting by September 1, 2000.

(e) In appointing members of the Commission, the Governor shall ensure regional, ethnic, economic, and gender diversity to the extent possible.

(f) The Department of Education shall provide staff support for the Commission.

(g) (1) On or before January 1, 2001, the Commission shall provide an interim report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

(2) On or before November 1, 2001, the Commission shall provide a final report containing the findings and recommendations of the Commission to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.”;

in line 18, strike “October” and substitute “June”; and in the same line, after “2000.” insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 7 months and, at the end of December 31, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.