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By: **Delegates Busch, Love, and D'Amato**  
Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2000  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Public Funding of Nonpublic Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Public Funding of Nonpublic  
4 Schools; providing for membership, duties, and staffing of the Task Force;  
5 requiring the Task Force to issue a report by a certain date; providing for the  
6 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Public  
7 Funding of Nonpublic Schools.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
9 MARYLAND, That:

10 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Public Funding of Nonpublic Schools.

11 (b) The Task Force consists of the following 15 members:

12 (1) Two members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of  
13 the House;

14 (2) Two members of the Senate of Maryland appointed by the President  
15 of the Senate; and

16 (3) The State Superintendent of Schools or the State Superintendent's  
17 designee;

18 (4) The following members appointed by the Governor:

19 (i) One representative from an independent school located in the  
20 State;

21 (ii) One representative from a Catholic school located in the State;

22 (iii) One representative from a nonpublic school not represented by  
23 the independent schools or the Catholic schools located in the State;

24 (iv) Four members from the general public; and

25 (v) Three local board superintendents:

- 1                                   1.       One from an urban public school;
- 2                                   2.       One from a suburban public school; and
- 3                                   3.       One from a rural public school.

4       (c)       The Chairperson of the Task Force shall be the State Superintendent of  
5 Schools or the State Superintendent's designee.

6       (d)       The Task Force shall study public funding of nonpublic schools, including:

7                   (1)       Identifying the number of nonpublic schools in the State whose  
8 annual costs and tuition are above the State norm for compensation on a per pupil  
9 basic current expense figure as defined in § 5-202(a)(13) of the Education Article;

10                  (2)       Determining the costs incurred by the State to purchase textbooks  
11 and technology, and to provide private transportation to nonpublic schools;

12                  (3)       Examining what effect the funding of nonpublic schools in the State  
13 would have on local county governments and local county school boards, if any;

14                  (4)       Examining the constitutional issues that may relate to public funding  
15 of nonpublic schools;

16                  (5)       Examining the process that nonpublic schools must go through to  
17 access State funds; and

18                  (6)       Examining public funding initiatives of nonpublic schools in other  
19 states.

20       (e)       Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation except that  
21 the members may be reimbursed for expenses under the Standard State Travel  
22 Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

23       (f)       The State Department of Education, in cooperation with other appropriate  
24 State and local units, shall provide staff support for the Task Force to the extent  
25 possible within existing budgeted resources.

26       (g)       The Task Force shall issue a final report of its findings and  
27 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government  
28 Article, to the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2001.

29       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 June 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 8 months and, at the end of  
31 January 31, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
32 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.