

SENATE BILL 399

Unofficial Copy
F2

2001 Regular Session
11r1597
CF 11r1598

By: **Senators Middleton and Hoffman**
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: February 28, 2001

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Creation of a Task Force to Study Adult Education Services in**
3 **Maryland**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Adult Education Services in
5 Maryland to ensure effective workers, family members, and citizens.

6 WHEREAS, Adult education includes instruction in basic skills, English as a
7 second language, General Equivalent Diploma (GED), and family literacy for adults
8 without a high school diploma; and

9 WHEREAS, There are approximately 770,000 adults currently residing in
10 Maryland who are without a high school diploma or its equivalent; and

11 WHEREAS, Only approximately 37,000 of these adults are being served by
12 presently existing adult education services; and

13 WHEREAS, There is a documented need in Maryland for a better educated
14 workforce, and the General Assembly believes that improved adult education would
15 help address that need; now, therefore,

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) There shall be a Task Force to Study Adult Education Services in
19 Maryland.

20 (b) The Task Force shall be composed of:

- 1 (1) One member of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board,
2 appointed by the Governor;
- 3 (2) One representative of the Department of Business and Economic
4 Development, appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Business and
5 Economic Development;
- 6 (3) One representative of the Department of Labor, Licensing, and
7 Regulation, appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing, and
8 Regulation;
- 9 (4) One representative of the Department of Human Resources,
10 appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources;
- 11 (5) Two local Literacy Works team administrators, appointed by the
12 State Superintendent of Schools;
- 13 (6) One representative of family literacy programs, appointed by the
14 State Superintendent of Schools;
- 15 (7) At least two county superintendents active in adult education,
16 appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;
- 17 (8) One representative of the State Advisory Committee for Adult
18 Education, appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;
- 19 (9) One representative from a State community college, appointed by the
20 Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission;
- 21 (10) One representative of a Local Workforce Investment Board,
22 appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation;
- 23 (11) One representative of the State Department of Education, appointed
24 by the State Superintendent of Schools;
- 25 (12) A Regional Coordinator for the External Diploma Program;
- 26 (13) One representative of an organization or program serving
27 immigrants or new Americans, appointed by the Governor;
- 28 (14) At least one representative from a statewide association concerned
29 with issues of adult education for adults without a high school degree or its equivalent
30 appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;
- 31 (15) One student enrolled in adult education, appointed by the State
32 Superintendent of Schools;
- 33 (16) One private sector employer, appointed by the Governor;
- 34 (17) One labor union representative, appointed by the Governor;

1 (18) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
2 the House; and

3 (19) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
4 of the Senate.

5 (c) The Governor shall designate a chairperson of the Task Force.

6 (d) Staff for the Task Force shall be provided by the State Department of
7 Education.

8 (e) The Task Force shall study adult education issues, including:

9 (1) The statewide need for adult education services, including
10 instruction for adults in basic skills, English as a second language, and family literacy
11 and preparation for the GED test and the adult external high school program;

12 (2) The impact of adult education on workforce economic development;

13 (3) The existing levels of service for adults without a high school diploma
14 or its equivalent, on a county-by-county basis (including Baltimore City);

15 (4) The current funding process and level of funding for existing
16 programs in each county and Baltimore City; and

17 (5) A comparison between Maryland and other states in the region
18 regarding levels of need, service provided, and funding.

19 (f) The Task Force shall submit a report summarizing its findings and
20 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before November
21 1, 2001.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 July 1, 2001.