
By: **Delegates Healey, Bartlett, Bozman, Conroy, C. Davis, Greenip, Heller,
Howard, Marriott, and Rosso**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Task Force to Study the Optimum Size for School Districts in**
3 **Maryland**

4 For the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Optimum Size for School
5 Districts in Maryland; specifying the purposes and responsibilities of the Task
6 Force; requiring the Task Force to report to certain persons by a certain date;
7 providing for the composition and staff of the Task Force; providing for the
8 effective date of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the
9 Optimum Size for School Districts in Maryland.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That:

12 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Optimum Size for School Districts in
13 Maryland.

14 (b) (1) The Task Force shall review and evaluate issues and make
15 recommendations relating to the optimum size for school districts in Maryland.

16 (2) As part of its review, the Task Force shall:

17 (i) review and study the size, operations, and functions of schools
18 districts in other states;

19 (ii) seek information from education and other experts on the effect
20 of school district size on student learning, achievement, and behavioral development
21 and evaluate the information in the context of the size of school districts in Maryland;

22 (iii) examine the relationship, if any, between school district size
23 and economic and staffing issues, including teacher supply and demand,
24 superintendent turnover, decision-making and governance;

25 (iv) consult with state and local government officials in other states
26 that have school districts of a geographic or student population size that generally are
27 different from those in Maryland;

1 (v) evaluate any state and local government fiscal issues related to
2 the school district size;

3 (vi) assess the effect of school district size on parental and
4 community involvement in the schools; and

5 (vii) any other matter the Task Force deems appropriate.

6 (c) The Commission shall be composed of 19 members as follows:

7 (1) a chairman appointed by the Governor;

8 (2) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
9 of the Senate;

10 (3) four members of the House of Delegates of Maryland, appointed by
11 the Speaker of the House;

12 (4) the State Superintendent of Schools, or designee;

13 (5) the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, or
14 designee;

15 (6) a member of the State Board of Education;

16 (7) two representatives of county government, appointed by the
17 Governor;

18 (8) two representatives of local boards of education, appointed by the
19 Governor;

20 (9) three individuals selected from among teachers, other public school
21 personnel, and the higher education community in Maryland, appointed by the
22 Governor; and

23 (10) two members of the public, appointed by the Governor.

24 (d) To the extent practicable, the Governor shall attempt to ensure regional,
25 ethnic, economic, and gender diversity on the Task Force.

26 (e) The Maryland State Department of Education, the Department of Budget
27 and Management, and the Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff
28 support to the Task Force.

29 (f) The Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations
30 to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to
31 the General Assembly by November 1, 2003.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
33 effect July 1, 2002.