

SENATE BILL 703

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2003 Regular Session
(3lr2309)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Ways and Means --

Introduced by **Senators Britt, Colburn, Forehand, Grosfeld, Hollinger, and Jones**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Availability of Audiology and Speech and Language ~~Speech-Language~~**
3 **Services**
4 **Task Force to Study the Availability of Audiology and Speech-Language**
5 **Services**

6 ~~FOR the purpose of establishing a Study Panel on the Availability of Audiology and~~
7 ~~Speech and Language ~~Speech Language~~ Services for children in public school~~
8 ~~programs; establishing the membership of the Study Panel and its duties;~~
9 ~~providing for the staff of the Study Panel; requiring the Study Panel to report its~~
10 ~~findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly~~
11 ~~on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and~~
12 ~~generally relating to the study of the availability of audiology and speech and~~
13 ~~language ~~speech language~~ services in the public schools of the State.~~

14 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Availability of Audiology
15 and Speech-Language Services; specifying the composition, powers, and duties
16 of the Task Force; providing for the staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task

1 Force to report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the
 2 General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;
 3 and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Availability of Audiology
 4 and Speech-Language Services.

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 6 MARYLAND, That:

7 (a) ~~It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a Study Panel to study~~
 8 ~~the availability of audiology and speech and language speech-language services for~~
 9 ~~children in kindergarten through grade 12 in public school programs.~~

10 (b) (a) ~~There is a Study Panel on Task Force to Study the Availability of~~
 11 ~~Audiology and Speech and Language Speech-Language Services for children in the~~
 12 ~~K-12 public school programs kindergarten through grade 12 in the public schools in~~
 13 ~~the State.~~

14 (c) (b) ~~The Study Panel Task Force consists of the following 17 members:~~

15 (1) ~~two Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the~~
 16 ~~President of the Senate;~~

17 (2) ~~two Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the~~
 18 ~~Speaker of the House;~~

19 (3) ~~the The State Superintendent for the Maryland Board of Education of~~
 20 ~~Schools, or a the State Superintendent's designee; and~~

21 (4) ~~a representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education~~
 22 ~~(MABE), appointed by the Association MABE;~~

23 (5) ~~two public school personnel designated nominated by a local public~~
 24 ~~school system to oversee hearing audiology and speech and language~~
 25 ~~speech-language services within a school system, recommended appointed by the~~
 26 ~~Maryland State Department of Education;~~

27 (6) ~~two consumer members appointed by the Governor; and~~

28 (7) ~~two members representing the Maryland Speech Language and~~
 29 ~~Hearing Speech Language Hearing Association, appointed by the Association.~~

30 (4) The following members, appointed by the Governor:

31 (i) A representative from the Maryland Association of Boards of
 32 Education;

33 (ii) Two public school personnel who are employed by a local public
 34 school system and who supervise hearing and speech-language services within a local
 35 public school system;

36 (iii) Two consumer members;

1 (iv) Two individuals who are practicing members of the Maryland
 2 Speech-Language and Hearing Association;

3 (v) A representative from the Office for Individuals with
 4 Disabilities, Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;

5 (vi) Two members of the Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid
 6 Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists, to include one audiologist and one
 7 speech-language pathologist;

8 (vii) A physician specializing in hearing health or children's health;
 9 and

10 (viii) A chairman.

11 (d) ~~The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall~~
 12 ~~appoint co chairs from among the Senate and House members appointed to the Study~~
 13 ~~Panel.~~

14 (e) (c) ~~The Maryland State Department of Education shall provide staff for~~
 15 ~~the Study Panel~~ Task Force.

16 (f) (d) ~~The Study Panel~~ Task Force shall review study and consider:

17 (1) ~~the~~ The scope of services provided by audiologists and ~~speech and~~
 18 ~~language~~ speech-language pathologists in the public ~~school system~~ schools in the
 19 State;

20 (2) ~~the~~ The availability of licensed audiologists and licensed ~~and certified~~
 21 ~~speech and language~~ speech-language pathologists employed by and on ~~the staff of~~ in
 22 each of the local public school systems in the State;

23 (3) ~~the~~ The amount and cost of contracted services utilized by each of the
 24 local public school systems in the State for audiology and ~~speech and language~~
 25 speech-language services;

26 (4) ~~the~~ The number of vacancies filled by contracted personnel and the
 27 total number of vacancies for audiologists and ~~speech and language~~ speech-language
 28 pathologists in the local public school ~~system~~ systems in the State;

29 (5) ~~the~~ The caseloads and ~~workloads~~ workload duties for the audiologists
 30 and ~~speech and language~~ speech-language pathologists in the local public school
 31 systems in the State;

32 (6) the number of children without ~~hearing audiology~~ hearing and ~~speech~~
 33 ~~and language~~ speech-language services due to unfilled positions for audiologists and
 34 ~~speech and language~~ speech-language pathologists, including the average length of
 35 time the children have been without services;

1 (7) ~~the~~ The cost of compensatory services and any other legal or
 2 administrative costs incurred by the local public school systems in the State for
 3 children who do not receive hearing and ~~speech and language~~ speech-language
 4 services; and

5 (8) ~~the~~ The number of children in need of hearing and ~~speech and~~
 6 ~~language~~ speech-language services in the local public school systems in the State.

7 ~~(g)~~ (e) The ~~Study Panel~~ Task Force shall make recommendations ~~as to~~
 8 regarding:

9 (1) ~~the~~ The need, if any, for audiologists and ~~speech and language~~
 10 speech-language pathologists on staff in the local public school ~~system~~ systems in the
 11 State;

12 (2) ~~the~~ The need, if any, to implement methods to retain and recruit
 13 audiologists and ~~speech and language~~ speech-language pathologists in the public
 14 school ~~system~~ systems in the State; and

15 (3) ~~whether~~ Whether the current caseloads and workloads for
 16 audiologists and ~~speech and language~~ speech-language pathologists need to be
 17 adjusted to increase hearing and ~~speech and language~~ speech-language services for
 18 children in need.

19 ~~(h)~~ (f) ~~The Study Panel shall report~~ On or before December 31, 2003, the
 20 Task Force shall issue a written report of its findings and recommendations to the
 21 Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House
 22 Ways and Means Committee, ~~subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on~~
 23 ~~or before December 1, 2003.~~

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
 25 effect ~~June~~ July 1, 2003. It shall remain ~~in effect through December 2003~~ effective for
 26 a period of 1 year and, at the end of ~~December 31, 2003~~ June 30, 2004, ~~without the~~
 27 ~~necessity of further action~~ with no further action required by the General Assembly,
 28 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.