

SENATE BILL 703

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2003 Regular Session
3r2309

By: **Senators Britt, Colburn, Forehand, Grosfeld, Hollinger, and Jones**
Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2003
Assigned to: Rules
Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 26, 2003

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 18, 2003

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Availability of Audiology and ~~Speech and Language~~ Speech-Language**
3 **Services**

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

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

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

17 (b) There is a Study Panel on the Availability of Audiology and ~~Speech and~~
18 ~~Language~~ Speech-Language Services for children in the K-12 public school
19 programs.

20 (c) The Study Panel consists of the following members:

21 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
22 of the Senate;

1 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
2 the House;

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

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

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

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

12 (7) two members representing the Maryland ~~Speech Language and~~
13 Hearing Speech-Language-Hearing Association, appointed by the Association.

14 (d) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall
15 appoint co-chairs from among the Senate and House members appointed to the Study
16 Panel.

17 (e) The Maryland State Department of Education shall provide staff for the
18 Study Panel.

19 (f) The Study Panel shall review:

20 (1) the scope of services provided by audiologists and ~~speech and~~
21 language speech-language pathologists in the public school system;

22 (2) the availability of licensed audiologists and licensed and certified
23 ~~speech and language~~ speech-language pathologists employed by and on the staff of
24 each of the local public school systems;

25 (3) the amount and cost of contracted services utilized by each of the
26 local public school systems for audiology and ~~speech and language~~ speech-language
27 services;

28 (4) the number of vacancies filled by contracted personnel and the total
29 number of vacancies for audiologists and ~~speech and language~~ speech-language
30 pathologists in the local school system;

31 (5) the caseloads and workloads for the audiologists and ~~speech and~~
32 language speech-language pathologists in the local public school systems;

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

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

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

6 (g) The Study Panel shall make recommendations as to:

7 (1) the need for audiologists and ~~speech and language~~ speech-language
8 pathologists on staff in the local public school system;

9 (2) the need to implement methods to retain and recruit audiologists and
10 ~~speech and language~~ speech-language pathologists in the public school system; and

11 (3) whether the current caseloads and workloads for audiologists and
12 ~~speech and language~~ speech-language pathologists need to be adjusted to increase
13 hearing and ~~speech and language~~ speech-language services for children in need.

14 (h) The Study Panel shall report its findings and recommendations to the
15 Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House
16 Ways and Means Committee, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on
17 or before December 1, 2003.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
19 effect June 1, 2003. It shall remain in effect through December 2003 and, at the end
20 of December 31, 2003, without the necessity of further action by the General
21 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.