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By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2004

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Interagency Task Force on Community Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of creating an Interagency Task Force on Community Schools;  
4 providing for the composition of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to elect  
5 a chairman from among its members; requiring the Governor's Office of  
6 Children, Youth, and Families to provide staff for the Task Force; prohibiting a  
7 member from receiving compensation but entitling a member to reimbursement  
8 for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to explore the use of community  
9 schools as a strategy for integrating State-funded and community-based grant  
10 funded services and programs directed at certain people; providing the goals of  
11 the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations  
12 relating to certain objectives regarding the use of community schools; requiring  
13 the Task Force to submit certain reports to the Governor and certain committees  
14 of the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the  
15 termination of the Task Force; and generally relating to the Interagency Task  
16 Force on Community Schools.

17 **Preamble**

18 WHEREAS, Many American children lack the most basic conditions for healthy  
19 development, including accessing shelter, support services, and health and mental  
20 health care; and

21 WHEREAS, A lack of access to basic necessities seriously impacts a child's  
22 ability to learn in school and feel secure in school or in a child's own neighborhood;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Research demonstrates that healthy children are prepared to learn  
25 in school, learn better in school, and are positively engaged in learning at school; and

26 WHEREAS, Parental engagement in a child's schooling is a strong indicator  
27 that a child will succeed in school; and

28 WHEREAS, Parents struggling to meet basic necessities for life cannot engage  
29 in a child's schooling because of lack of time, information, support, skills, or  
30 opportunities; and

1 WHEREAS, The resources to help families meet basic necessities and overcome  
2 financial and social obstacles are often fragmented, uncoordinated, difficult to find,  
3 access, navigate, or are simply unavailable; and

4 WHEREAS, Community-based resources that coordinate financial and social  
5 resources for struggling families enhance the well-being, security, and learning  
6 readiness of a child and a child's family; and

7 WHEREAS, Local planning and solid infrastructure are essential in the  
8 effective and efficient delivery and coordination of appropriate services, supports, and  
9 opportunities to children and families; and

10 WHEREAS, State funds for the support and development of children, families,  
11 and communities should be better integrated and coordinated, targeted at specific  
12 objectives, and linked to improved educational opportunities; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, schools can be the foundation of a vital community; and

14 WHEREAS, Schools in every community enable coordination and cooperation  
15 among vital organizations and agencies and enable the most cost-effective and  
16 efficient delivery of necessary goods and services; and

17 WHEREAS, Community schools in other states are cornerstones of strong and  
18 connected communities and show proven results in attendance, personal and  
19 community safety, academic achievement, access to health care services, family  
20 stability, and a reduction in risky child and teen behaviors; now, therefore,

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
22 MARYLAND, That:

23 (a) There is an Interagency Task Force on Community Schools.

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

25 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
26 of the Senate;

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

29 (3) the State Superintendent of Education, or the State Superintendent's  
30 designee;

31 (4) the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, or  
32 the Secretary's designee;

33 (5) the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources, or the  
34 Secretary's designee;

35 (6) the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Children, Youth, and  
36 Families, or the Special Secretary's designee;

1 (7) the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community  
2 Development, or the Secretary's designee;

3 (8) the Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services, or the  
4 Secretary's designee;

5 (9) the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and  
6 Prevention, or the Executive Director's designee; and

7 (10) six representatives of the general public, nominated by the Special  
8 Secretary of the Governor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families and appointed by  
9 the Governor.

10 (c) The Task Force shall elect a chairman from among its members.

11 (d) The Governor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families shall provide staff  
12 for the Task Force.

13 (e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on  
14 the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
15 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

16 (f) (1) The Task Force shall explore community schools as a strategy for  
17 integrating State-funded and community-based grant-funded services and programs  
18 directed at children, adolescents, families, and communities.

19 (2) The goals of the Task Force are to:

20 (i) make services and programs directed at children, adolescents,  
21 families, and communities more responsive to the needs of those the services and  
22 programs are serving;

23 (ii) make the delivery of required services and programs more  
24 effective, accessible, and efficient by coordinating the services and programs in  
25 schools; and

26 (iii) enhance student academic achievement through expanded  
27 school-community partnership community schools.

28 (3) In conducting a study of and making recommendations about the use  
29 of community schools, the Task Force shall:

30 (i) identify barriers to the local development of community schools  
31 and develop strategies to remove these barriers;

32 (ii) develop a plan for units to use a community schools benefit  
33 factor in issuing existing State requests for proposals for services to be determined by  
34 the Task Force and to evaluate competitively sealed proposals for those services  
35 according to the goals of the Task Force;

1 (iii) integrate and deliver State and local services through  
2 interagency collaboration and the use of school facilities;

3 (iv) evaluate the use of professional on-site service coordinators to  
4 ensure the delivery of services and the alignment of services with the goals for  
5 student achievement and development;

6 (v) create incentives for establishing effective partnerships to  
7 develop, sustain, and evaluate infrastructure to deliver the necessary social and  
8 academic services;

9 (vi) develop a State policy that promotes the role of schools as  
10 centers for academic learning and the delivery of individual, family, and community  
11 services; and

12 (vii) ensure that State programs support student learning by:

13 1. coordinating categorical grant programs across State  
14 agencies;

15 2. developing incentives for the coordination and integration  
16 of individual and family services at the local level;

17 3. integrating existing task forces and advisory groups to  
18 reduce the fragmented delivery of services and programs;

19 4. supporting high-quality and effective technical assistance  
20 and capacity-building activities at the State and local levels in the public and private  
21 sectors; and

22 5. initiating and evaluating targeted investments in  
23 community school initiatives and support structures, including:

24 A. support for professional on-site coordinator positions;

25 B. seed money for planning and sustaining infrastructure;

26 C. building schools as centers of communities; and

27 D. professional development in the areas of collaboration  
28 with families and communities.

29 (g) The Task Force shall convene workgroups and shall invite the  
30 participation of and solicit commentary from all interested parties as necessary in  
31 carrying out its duties under subsection (f) of this section.

32 (h) (1) The Task Force shall submit reports in accordance with paragraph  
33 (2) of this subsection on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and,  
34 subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance and  
35 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committees and the House Ways and  
36 Means and Health and Government Operations Committees.

1           (2)       The Task Force shall submit an interim report on or before December  
2 31, 2004, regarding the findings and recommendations for developing community  
3 schools as required under subsection (f) of this section, and a final report on or before  
4 December 31, 2005, including an evaluation of the implementation of the community  
5 benefits factor under subsection (f) of this section.

6       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 June 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 7 months and, at the  
8 end of December 31, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
9 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.