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By: Delegate Marriott

Introduced and read first time: February 27, 2004 Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

4	A 3 T		•
1	AN	ACT	concerning

- Task Force on the Role of Alternative Providers in Supporting the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act
- 4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the Role of Alternative Providers in
- 5 Supporting the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act; providing for the
- 6 membership of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to designate the
- 7 chairman of the Task Force; providing for the staffing of the Task Force;
- 8 requiring the Task Force to survey, review, and identify certain matters and take
- 9 certain actions; requiring the Task Force to submit a report of its findings,
- 10 activities, and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by a
- certain date; and generally relating to the Task Force on the Role of Alternative
- 12 Providers in Supporting the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act.

13 Preamble

- 14 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the importance of providing
- 15 early childhood education and development opportunities to the children of Maryland;
- 16 and
- 17 WHEREAS, Existing providers of early learning and child care that are
- 18 operating under licensure by the Department of Human Resources or that are
- 19 approved by the Department of Education have been a major resource to the State
- 20 and the parents and children of the State in meeting their needs for early childhood
- 21 education and child care; and
- 22 WHEREAS, The Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act, first enacted as
- 23 Chapter 288 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002, represents a significant
- 24 financial challenge to the State and to local governments; and
- 25 WHEREAS, The continued viability and capability of the existing network of
- 26 early learning and child care providers is important to Maryland families and to the
- 27 availability of child care for the children of workers in Maryland businesses; and
- 28 WHEREAS, There is an opportunity to meet the goals of the Bridge to
- 29 Excellence in Public Schools Act and to serve more children through collaboration

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2 childhood education and child care; now, therefore, SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 4 MARYLAND, That: 5 There is a Task Force on the Role of Alternative Providers in Supporting (a) 6 the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act. 7 (b) The Task Force shall be composed of 13 members as follows: 8 (1) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of 9 the House; 10 (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of 11 the Senate; 12 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources, or the 13 Secretary's designee; 14 (4) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's 15 designee; the Special Secretary for the Governor's Office for Children, Youth, 17 and Families, or the Special Secretary's designee; 18 (6) a representative from the Maryland Association of Boards of 19 Education; 20 (7) a representative from the Public School Superintendents Association 21 of Maryland; 22 (8)a representative from the Maryland Association of Counties; 23 (9) a representative from the Maryland Committee for Children, Inc.; 24 (10)a representative from the Maryland State Child Care Association; 25 (11)a representative from the Maryland State Family Care Association; (12)26 a representative from the organization, Ready at Five; and 27 (13)a member from the general public. 28 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force from among 29 its members. 30 (d) The Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families shall provide staff 31 support to the Task Force. 32 The Task Force shall: (e)

1 among State agencies, local public school systems, and existing providers of early

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		survey existing alternative early learning and child care providers to pacity and capability to provide prekindergarten and kindergarten under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act;
		review the capacity of local school systems to meet the requirements o Excellence in Public Schools Act for prekindergarten and ces for the 2007-2008 school year and each school year thereafter;
9 10 11	prekindergarten ar school year there	review the master plans submitted by local school systems to meet under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act for and kindergarten services for the 2007-2008 school year and each after, and the extent to which the master plans leverage the capacity alternative early learning and child care providers to meet the er the Act;
	(4) learning and child services for publi	review best practices in other states in utilizing alternative early d care providers to provide prekindergarten and kindergarten c school students;
18 19	alternative early l provide prekinder Excellence in Pul	identify any obstacles in the State in utilizing the capability of earning and child care providers as part of an overall strategy to garten and kindergarten services required under the Bridge to blic Schools Act and the practicable and feasible steps that would be come these obstacles, including the associated costs;
23	work in collabora	identify the potential costs and savings for the State and for local ternative early learning and child care providers are enabled to tion with local school systems to provide prekindergarten and ices required by the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act;
27	provide prekinder	develop a report and series of recommendations for the Governor and mbly to enable alternative early learning and child care providers to garten and kindergarten services required under the Bridge to blic Schools Act in collaboration with local school systems;
29 30	(8) recommendations	assist the Governor and State and local agencies in implementing the developed by the Task Force; and
31 32	(9) the Task Force.	take other action as necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of
33	(f) A m	ember of the Task Force:
34	(1)	may not receive compensation; but
35 36	(2) Travel Regulation	is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State as, as provided in the State budget.

- 1 (g) The Task Force shall submit a report of its activities, findings, and
- $2\,$ recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
- 3 Government Article, to the General Assembly by December 1, 2004.
- 4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
- 5 effect July 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
- 6 June 30, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
- 7 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.