

BY: Committee on Ways and Means

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1254

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute:

“Task Force to Study the Achievement Gap in Maryland Public Schools”;

strike in their entirety lines 3 through 20, inclusive, and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Achievement Gap in Maryland Public Schools; providing for the membership and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; authorizing the Task Force to request certain assistance from the State Department of Education; requiring the Task Force to study certain issues related to closing achievement gaps for certain groups of students in the Maryland public school system; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a Task Force to Study the Achievement Gap in Maryland Public Schools.”;

and strike in their entirety lines 21 through 30, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, strike beginning with “Section(s)” in line 2 down through “repealed.” in line 3 and substitute “:

(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Achievement Gap in Maryland Public Schools.

(b) (1) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(Over)

and

(i) three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

the House;

(ii) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of

follows:

(iii) five members from the community, appointed by the Governor as

1. one representative of the Baltimore Teachers Union;
2. one representative of Maryland State Teachers Association;
3. one representative of CASA of Maryland;
4. one representative of the Arc of Maryland; and
5. one representative who serves on a local school board.

(2) A majority of the members appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall be members who are:

- (i) members of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus; or
- (ii) members who represent legislative districts with a high concentration of schools identified for restructuring.

(c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall jointly appoint a chair and a vice chair of the Task Force.

(d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

- (1) shall serve without compensation; but
- (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel

Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) (1) The Task Force shall review and study educational indicators of achievement gaps in public schools for the following groups of students:

(i) students from racial and ethnic minority groups;

(ii) economically disadvantaged students;

(iii) English-language learners; and

(iv) students with disabilities.

(2) The Task Force shall make recommendations regarding:

(i) the existence of achievement gaps in the Maryland public school system;

(ii) effective strategies to narrow achievement gaps;

(iii) methods the State educational agencies could use to close achievement gaps; and

(iv) legislative initiatives that would address closing achievement gaps.

(g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2005.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On pages 2 and 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 4 on page 2 through line 32 on page 3, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

(Over)

On page 3, in line 33, strike “3.” and substitute “2.”; and in line 34, after “2005.” insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.