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By: **Delegates Gutierrez, Carter, and Zirkin**  
Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2005  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Delinquency Prevention and Diversion Services Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Delinquency Prevention and Diversion Services  
4 Task Force; providing for the membership and co-chairs of the Task Force;  
5 requiring the Department of Juvenile Services to staff the Task Force; providing  
6 that the members of the Task Force may not receive compensation but are  
7 entitled to a certain reimbursement; establishing the duties of the Task Force;  
8 requiring the Task Force to submit a certain preliminary or final report by a  
9 certain date; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain final report by a  
10 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to  
11 the Delinquency Prevention and Diversion Services Task Force.

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

14 (a) There is a Delinquency Prevention and Diversion Services Task Force.

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

16 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, one to serve as co-chair,  
17 appointed by the President of the Senate;

18 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, one to serve as co-chair,  
19 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;

21 (4) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's  
22 designee;

23 (5) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's  
24 designee;

25 (6) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

26 (7) the Special Secretary for Children, Youth, and Families, or the  
27 Special Secretary's designee;

1 (8) the Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and  
2 Prevention, or the Director's designee; and

3 (9) the following members, appointed by the Governor, from school  
4 districts or local education agencies with student populations greater than 70,000:

5 (i) two local education agency school board members;

6 (ii) two school superintendents, or the superintendents' designees;

7 (iii) two representatives of local social services agencies;

8 (iv) two representatives of youth service bureaus;

9 (v) two representatives of correctional facilities for youths;

10 (vi) two representatives of licensed health or mental health service  
11 providers;

12 (vii) two principals of local middle or secondary schools, or the  
13 principals' designees; and

14 (viii) three youth representatives who were formerly referred to  
15 intake as juveniles.

16 (c) The Department of Juvenile Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

17 (d) A member of the Task Force:

18 (1) may not receive compensation; but

19 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
20 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

21 (e) The Task Force shall:

22 (1) study, survey, and assess the adequacy, quality, and quantity of  
23 delinquency prevention and diversion services currently being provided to the  
24 juvenile offenders of this State, as defined in paragraph (2) of this subsection, by  
25 public and private agencies, including mandated and wrap around services, such as:

26 (i) behavior management and counseling;

27 (ii) drug and alcohol treatment;

28 (iii) monitoring;

29 (iv) relocation;

30 (v) community service options;

- 1 (vi) family and parental counseling services;
- 2 (vii) mental health services;
- 3 (viii) job, career, and skills training;
- 4 (ix) work opportunities;
- 5 (x) tattoo removal;
- 6 (xi) mentoring;
- 7 (xii) social and health services;
- 8 (xiii) after-school programs;
- 9 (xiv) youth bureau services;
- 10 (xv) truancy prevention, stay-in-school, and dropout prevention  
11 policies and programs;
- 12 (xvi) GED, vocational, and alternative high school programs; and
- 13 (xvii) school re-entry options;
- 14 (2) review delinquency prevention and diversion services that target the  
15 estimated 55,000 youth referred to intake described in the Department of Juvenile  
16 Services Gap Analysis Report submitted to the General Assembly on December 31,  
17 2004 who:
- 18 (i) are processed by the Department at intake; and
- 19 (ii) are not adjudicated delinquent or committed to a juvenile  
20 detention or correctional facility;
- 21 (3) conduct hearings and gather information and suggestions from  
22 targeted juveniles, schools, the Department of Juvenile Services, and other service  
23 providers throughout the State;
- 24 (4) identify and document the current availability of delinquency  
25 prevention and diversion services in the State, including:
- 26 (i) types of court-ordered and support programs;
- 27 (ii) where services are provided;
- 28 (iii) who provides services;
- 29 (iv) the demographic characteristics and number of youths who  
30 receive the services; and

- 1 (v) the total and per individual costs of services;
- 2 (5) identify best practices and successful models for delinquency  
3 prevention and diversion programs in the State and in other states;
- 4 (6) assess and evaluate the adequacy of current juvenile services in  
5 terms of:
- 6 (i) effectiveness of outcomes;
- 7 (ii) sufficiency of quantity and quality of services;
- 8 (iii) availability and accessibility; and
- 9 (iv) cost effectiveness and cost avoidance measures;
- 10 (7) identify the impact and consequences of gaps in juvenile services; and
- 11 (8) report findings and recommend delinquency prevention and  
12 diversion services improvements.

13 (f) The Task Force shall report its preliminary or final findings and  
14 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
15 Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before October 1, 2006, and, if the  
16 Task Force requires and requests additional time in which to complete its task, shall  
17 report its final findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance  
18 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before  
19 October 1, 2007.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 3 months and, at the  
22 end of September 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
23 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.