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By: **Senator Dyson**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Task Force on School Safety**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on School Safety; providing for the  
4 membership and staffing of the Task Force; authorizing the Task Force to  
5 establish certain subcommittees; requiring the Task Force to evaluate and make  
6 recommendations regarding certain issues by a certain date; providing the Task  
7 Force certain subpoena powers under certain circumstances; providing for the  
8 termination of this Act; and generally relating to school safety in the public  
9 schools of the State.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
11 MARYLAND, That:

12 (a) There is a Task Force on School Safety.

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

14 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
15 of the Senate;

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

18 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or a designee;

19 (4) two representatives of the Maryland Association of Boards of  
20 Education, appointed by the Association;

21 (5) four public school teachers from different geographic areas of the  
22 State, appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;

23 (6) two parents of public school students, appointed by the Governor;

24 (7) two public school students, appointed by the Governor;

25 (8) a school psychiatrist or sociologist, appointed by the State  
26 Superintendent of Schools;

1 (9) the Secretary of State Police, or a designee; and

2 (10) the Attorney General of Maryland, or a designee.

3 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall  
4 appoint a chairman from the members appointed to the Task Force.

5 (d) The Task Force may establish subcommittees as deemed necessary to  
6 fulfill its duties.

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

8 (f) The Task Force shall evaluate and make recommendations regarding:

9 (1) methods to address the growing incidence of student violence in  
10 public schools;

11 (2) methods to provide a safe learning environment for students;

12 (3) the use of video surveillance cameras, metal detectors, and other  
13 security devices to improve safety;

14 (4) ensuring the safety of students to and from school during  
15 noninstructional hours;

16 (5) ensuring school officials and public safety personnel respond  
17 effectively to crises including:

18 (i) acts and threats of violence by students;

19 (ii) accidental injury and loss;

20 (iii) natural disasters; and

21 (iv) exposure to hazardous or radiological substances; and

22 (6) the use of emergency management agency and law enforcement  
23 personnel to train and provide technical assistance to county school personnel in  
24 areas including:

25 (i) crisis response team development;

26 (ii) crisis management planning;

27 (iii) safe school planning;

28 (iv) site surveys and safety audits;

29 (v) emergency operations planning;

30 (vi) search and seizure; and

1 (vii) model school safety plans.

2 (g) By a majority vote of all of the members of the Task Force, the Task Force  
3 may issue a subpoena that requires the appearance of a person, the production of  
4 relevant records, and the giving of relevant testimony, in accordance with the  
5 requirements of § 2-1608 of the State Government Article.

6 (h) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
7 Governor, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, and  
8 the House Ways and Means Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
9 Government Article, on or before December 1, 2006.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the  
12 end of December 31, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
13 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.