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By: **Delegates Gutierrez, Anderson, Bronrott, Brown, Carter, Dumais,  
Kelley, King, Lawton, Lee, Madaleno, Menes, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam,  
Parker, Petzold, Ramirez, V. Turner, Vallario, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2006

Assigned to: Judiciary

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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 cochair 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 report to the Governor and the  
9 General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;  
10 and generally relating to the Delinquency Prevention and Diversion Services  
11 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 cochair,  
17 appointed by the President of the Senate;

18 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, one to serve as cochair,  
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;

1 (7) the Director of the Office of Group Home Licensing and Monitoring,  
2 or the Director's designee;

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

5 (9) the Public Defender, or the Public Defender's designee;

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

8 (i) two local education agency board members;

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

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

11 (iv) two representatives of youth service bureaus;

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

13 (vi) two representatives of licensed health or mental health service  
14 providers;

15 (vii) two principals of local middle or secondary schools, or the  
16 principals' designees;

17 (viii) three youth representatives who were formerly referred to  
18 intake as juveniles; and

19 (ix) three parents of youths referred to intake as juveniles; and

20 (11) the following members, appointed by the Governor, from school  
21 districts or local education agencies with student populations of less than 70,000:

22 (i) one local education agency school board member;

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

24 (iii) one representative of a local social services agency; and

25 (iv) one principal of a local middle or secondary school, or the  
26 principal's designee.

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

28 (d) A member of the Task Force:

29 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

3 (e) The Task Force shall:

4 (1) study, survey, and assess the adequacy, quality, and quantity of  
5 delinquency prevention and diversion services currently being provided to the  
6 juvenile offenders of this State, as defined in paragraph (2) of this subsection, by  
7 public and private agencies, including mandated and wraparound services, such as:

- 8 (i) behavior management and counseling;
- 9 (ii) drug and alcohol treatment;
- 10 (iii) monitoring;
- 11 (iv) relocation;
- 12 (v) community service options;
- 13 (vi) family and parental counseling services;
- 14 (vii) mental health services;
- 15 (viii) job, career, and skills training;
- 16 (ix) work opportunities;
- 17 (x) tattoo removal;
- 18 (xi) mentoring;
- 19 (xii) social and health services;
- 20 (xiii) after-school programs;
- 21 (xiv) youth bureau services;
- 22 (xv) truancy prevention, stay-in-school, and dropout prevention  
23 policies and programs;
- 24 (xvi) GED, vocational, and alternative high school programs;
- 25 (xvii) school re-entry options; and
- 26 (xviii) community conferencing programs;

27 (2) review delinquency prevention and diversion services that target the  
28 estimated 55,000 youths referred to intake described in the Department of Juvenile  
29 Services Gap Analysis Report submitted to the General Assembly on December 31,  
30 2004, who:

- 1 (i) are processed by the Department at intake; and
- 2 (ii) are not adjudicated delinquent or committed to a juvenile  
3 detention or correctional facility;
- 4 (3) conduct hearings and gather information and suggestions from  
5 targeted juveniles, schools, the Department of Juvenile Services, local management  
6 boards, and other service providers throughout the State;
- 7 (4) identify and document the current availability of delinquency  
8 prevention and diversion services in the State, including:
- 9 (i) types of court-ordered and support programs;
- 10 (ii) where services are provided;
- 11 (iii) who provides services;
- 12 (iv) the demographic characteristics and number of youths who  
13 receive the services; and
- 14 (v) the total and individual costs of services;
- 15 (5) identify best practices and successful models for delinquency  
16 prevention and diversion programs in the State and in other states;
- 17 (6) assess and evaluate the adequacy of current juvenile services in  
18 terms of:
- 19 (i) effectiveness of outcomes;
- 20 (ii) sufficiency of quantity and quality of services;
- 21 (iii) availability and accessibility; and
- 22 (iv) cost-effectiveness and cost-avoidance measures;
- 23 (7) identify the impact and consequences of gaps in juvenile services;
- 24 (8) report findings and recommend delinquency prevention and  
25 diversion services improvements;
- 26 (9) develop criteria for requests for proposals to establish juvenile  
27 delinquency prevention and diversion programs; and
- 28 (10) develop criteria for the award of grants to establish juvenile  
29 delinquency prevention and diversion programs.
- 30 (f) On or before July 1, 2007, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
31 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
32 Government Article, the General Assembly.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and, at the  
3 end of September 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
4 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.