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By: **Delegates Boteler, Aumann, Cluster, DeBoy, Donoghue, Frank,  
Glassman, Impallaria, Kach, Kohl, Mayer, McComas, and McDonough**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 21, 2006

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to ~~Evaluate Existing School~~ Convene a Summit on Civic and**  
 3 **Financial Literacy Programs ~~in Maryland~~ Established**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a ~~Task Force to Evaluate Existing School Civic~~  
 5 ~~Literacy Programs; providing for the membership, chair, and staffing of the~~  
 6 ~~Task Force; providing for the duties of the Task Force; prohibiting members of~~  
 7 ~~the Task Force from receiving compensation but entitling a member to certain~~  
 8 ~~reimbursement; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and~~  
 9 ~~recommendations to the State Department of Education on or before a certain~~  
 10 ~~date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to~~  
 11 ~~establishing a Task Force to Evaluate Existing School Civic Literacy Programs~~  
 12 ~~the Task Force to Convene a Summit on Civic and Financial Literacy in~~  
 13 ~~Maryland; providing for the composition, powers, and duties of the Task Force;~~  
 14 ~~requiring the State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher~~  
 15 ~~Education Commission to provide staffing for the Task Force; prohibiting~~  
 16 ~~members of the Task Force from receiving compensation but entitling members~~  
 17 ~~to reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to convene a~~  
 18 ~~Summit on Civic and Financial Literacy for certain purposes; requiring the Task~~  
 19 ~~Force to report certain findings and recommendations to the Governor, the State~~  
 20 ~~Department of Education, and the General Assembly on or before a certain date;~~  
 21 ~~providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task~~  
 22 ~~Force to Convene a Summit on Civic and Financial Literacy in Maryland.~~

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
 24 MARYLAND, That:

25 (a) ~~In this Act, "civic literacy" means:~~

1           (1)     an understanding of the workings of the American political, social  
2 and economic systems;

3           (2)     an appreciation of the geographical and historical foundations which  
4 have shaped and continue to shape these systems; and

5           (3)     the acquisition of the tools necessary for responsible citizenship and  
6 community involvement.

7        ~~(b)~~    (a)     There is a Task Force to ~~Evaluate Existing School~~ Convene a Summit  
8 on Civic and Financial Literacy Programs in Maryland.

9        ~~(c)~~    (b)     The Task Force consists of the following members:

10           (1)     ~~three~~ two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
11 President of the Senate;

12           (2)     ~~three~~ two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the  
13 Speaker of the House; ~~and~~

14           ~~(3)~~     ~~five members with expertise in the area of civic literacy, appointed by~~  
15 ~~the Governor.~~

16        ~~(d)~~     ~~To the extent practicable, when appointing members to the Task Force, the~~  
17 ~~Governor shall assure geographic balance and promote racial diversity in the~~  
18 ~~membership of the Task Force.~~

19           (3)     the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's  
20 designee;

21           (4)     the Secretary for Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

22           (5)     two representatives of the Center for Information and Research on  
23 Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), appointed by the Governor;

24           (6)     two representatives from the Maryland Association of Student  
25 Councils, appointed by the Governor; and

26           (7)     one representative from the Maryland Judicial Conference,  
27 appointed by the Governor.

28        ~~(e)~~    ~~(c)~~     The Task Force shall elect ~~a chair~~ the chair of the Task Force from  
29 among its members.

30        ~~(f)~~    ~~(d)~~     The State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher  
31 Education Commission shall provide staff for the Task Force.

32        ~~(g)~~    ~~(e)~~     A member of the Task Force:

33           (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 ~~(h)~~ (f) The Task Force shall:

4 (1) ~~evaluate existing school civic literacy programs;~~

5 ~~(2) determine a strategy for enhancing long-term civic education; and~~

6 ~~(3) make recommendations regarding a plan for implementing a civic~~  
7 ~~education program~~ convene a Summit on Civil Civic and Financial Literacy to:

8 (i) determine a strategy for enhancing long-term civic engagement  
9 and literacy within the State; and

10 (ii) recommend a plan to improve civic engagement and literacy;

11 (iii) research and study existing programs that teach and promote  
12 financial literacy to various appropriate age groups; and

13 (iv) recommend a plan to improve or implement financial literacy  
14 programs in schools in the State;

15 (2) invite a diverse range of student, teacher, and administrator  
16 representatives from elementary, secondary, and higher education, media, civic  
17 organizations, economists, individuals with expertise in finance, and elected officials  
18 from across the State of Maryland to participate in the discussions concerning civic  
19 engagement and literacy and financial literacy at the summit; and

20 (3) invite the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning  
21 and Engagement based in the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy to  
22 facilitate the Summit on Civic and Financial Literacy.

23 ~~(i)~~ (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations for  
24 future actions to the Governor, State Department of Education, and in accordance  
25 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before  
26 December 31, 2006.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~1 year and 1 month~~ 6 months  
29 and, at the end of ~~July 30, 2007~~ December 31, 2006, with no further action required by  
30 the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

