
By: **Delegate Niemann**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Promote Nonviolent and Peaceful Ways to Resolve Conflict**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Promote Nonviolent and Peaceful
4 Ways to Resolve Conflict; establishing the membership of the Task Force;
5 providing staff support for the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task
6 Force from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task
7 Force to be reimbursed for certain expenses; providing for the duties of the Task
8 Force; requiring the Task Force to issue its findings and recommendations by a
9 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
10 ways to promote nonviolent and peaceful ways to resolve conflict.

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force to Promote Nonviolent and Peaceful Ways to Resolve
14 Conflict.

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

16 (1) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

17 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
18 of the House; and

19 (3) ten members, to be appointed by the Governor to include:

20 (i) one person representing the elementary and secondary
21 educational community;

22 (ii) one person with experience working in the juvenile justice
23 system;

24 (iii) one person with experience working in the adult criminal
25 justice system;

26 (iv) one person with experience in mediation or other alternative
27 dispute resolution programs;

1 (v) one person with experience with community oriented conflict
2 resolution programs, such as community conferencing or community mediation; and

3 (vi) five members of the public at large.

4 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

5 (d) The Governor's office shall provide staff support to the Task Force.

6 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

10 (f) The Task Force shall:

11 (1) identify research-tested best practices for promoting understanding
12 and the peaceful resolution of conflicts;

13 (2) examine obstacles to nonviolent conflict resolution;

14 (3) identify public, private, faith-based, and nonprofit organizations
15 working to promote understanding and nonviolent conflict resolution;

16 (4) identify specific actions that the State may take:

17 (i) to promote and support proven peaceful conflict resolution
18 approaches at the local and state level of the public sector and in the private sector;
19 and

20 (ii) to promote increased tolerance and understanding between
21 diverse communities and constituencies;

22 (5) identify strategies that the State and specific State agencies may use
23 to encourage peaceful behavior, including modifying or expanding current initiatives
24 and public educational efforts;

25 (6) examine ways to apply models of peaceful conflict resolution to the
26 juvenile and criminal justice systems; and

27 (7) examine ways to promote public discussion and exploration of
28 peaceful resolution of conflict issues at the personal, neighborhood, and community
29 levels.

30 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
31 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
32 General Assembly, on or before December 1, 2007.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of
3 September 30, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
4 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.