

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Britt**

Requested: July 20, 2005

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2006

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Convene a Summit on Civic Literacy in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Convene a Summit on Civic
4 Literacy in Maryland; providing for the composition, powers, and duties of the
5 Task Force; requiring the State Department of Education and the Maryland
6 Higher Education Commission to provide staffing for the Task Force;
7 prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving compensation but
8 entitling members to reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task
9 Force to convene a Summit on Civic Literacy for certain purposes; requiring the
10 Task Force to report certain findings and recommendations to the Governor, the
11 State Department of Education, and the General Assembly on or before a certain
12 date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task
13 Force to Convene a Summit on Civic Literacy in Maryland.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Convene a Summit on Civic Literacy in Maryland.

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

18 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
19 of the Senate;

20 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
21 the House;

22 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's
23 designee;

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

25 (5) two representatives of the Center for Information and Research on
26 Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE).

1 (c) The Task Force shall elect the chair of the Task Force from among its
2 members.

3 (d) The State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher Education
4 Commission shall provide staff for the Task Force.

5 (e) A member of the Task Force:

6 (1) may not receive compensation; but

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

9 (f) The Task Force shall:

10 (1) convene a Summit for Civic Literacy to:

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

13 (ii) recommend a plan to improve civic engagement and literacy.

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

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

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

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