

**SB0476/994135/1**

BY: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 476  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute:

“Task Force to Study Group Home Education and Placement Practices”;

strike beginning with “requiring” in line 3 down through “Program” in line 13 and substitute “establishing a Task Force to Study Group Home Education and Placement Practices; providing for the membership and staffing of the Task Force; providing that the members of the Task Force may not receive compensation but are entitled to a certain reimbursement; establishing the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to submit certain reports to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Group Home Education and Placement Practices”; and strike in their entirety lines 14 through 23, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 2, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

On pages 2 and 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 3 on page 2 through line 20 on page 3, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, after line 20, insert:

“(a) There is a Task Force to Study Group Home Education and Placement Practices.

(Over)

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

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

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

(3) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

(4) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;

(5) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's designee;

(6) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;

(7) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;

(8) the Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children, or the Executive Director's designee; and

(9) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) two representatives of local departments of social services;

(ii) two representatives of nonprofit service providers;

(iii) one representative of the State Coordinating Council;

(iv) one representative of a local coordinating council; and

(v) two representatives of the child advocacy community.

(c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

(f) (1) The Task Force shall:

(i) examine the current status of group home education and placement practices in out-of-home placements licensed by State agencies; and

(ii) make recommendations for future requirements for the placement of children in State licensed programs.

(2) The Task Force shall consider the following while making its findings and recommendations:

(i) funding requirements for:

1. programs for children committed to the Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of Human Resources;

(Over)

2. alternative programs;
3. separate programs versus commingled programs; and
4. other State agencies;

(ii) the feasibility of separate programs and facilities for children commingled in programs licensed by the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Maryland State Department of Education;

(iii) studies related to the commingling of children committed to the Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of Human Resources;

(iv) the demographics of children committed to the Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of Human Resources;

(v) the educational needs of youth served by group homes;

(vi) the fiscal impact of prohibiting commingling of children on current and future providers;

(vii) the number of negative incidents in commingled and noncommingled programs; and

(viii) the commitment history of children in commingled and noncommingled programs.

(g) The Task Force shall submit to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly;

(1) an interim report of its findings and recommendations on or before December 1, 2007; and

(2) a final report of its findings and recommendations on or before December 1, 2008.”;

in line 22, strike “October” and substitute “July”; and in the same line, after “2007.” insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.