

# HOUSE BILL 629

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By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2007

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County - Task Force on the Establishment of Vocational and**  
3 **Technical Education High School Academies**

4 **PG 423-07**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the Establishment of Vocational and  
6 Technical Education High School Academies in Prince George's County;  
7 establishing the membership and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the  
8 members of the Task Force to designate the chair of the Task Force; requiring  
9 the Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding certain  
10 issues; requiring the Task Force to submit a report to certain officials regarding  
11 its recommendations by a certain date; prohibiting a member of the Task Force  
12 from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing a member of the Task  
13 Force to receive certain reimbursements; providing for the termination of this  
14 Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on the Establishment of  
15 Vocational and Technical Education High School Academies in Prince George's  
16 County.

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, A disproportionately large number of students do not graduate  
19 from high school and may not be prepared for the workplace in Prince George's  
20 County; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, A large percentage of students who do graduate from high school in  
2 Prince George's County do not go on to postsecondary education and instead directly  
3 enter the workforce; and

4 WHEREAS, It has been reported that the current Prince George's County public  
5 high school curriculum and method of teaching does not adequately prepare all  
6 students for meaningful and productive work; and

7 WHEREAS, There have been complaints from employers in Prince George's  
8 County that students are not adequately prepared for work; and

9 WHEREAS, There is a clear need for skilled workers in many industries and  
10 fields now located in Prince George's County or likely to move there; and

11 WHEREAS, There is a constitutional obligation that all students receive an  
12 adequate public education that prepares them for work and citizenship; and

13 WHEREAS, There is interest in the community in Prince George's County in  
14 exploring an alternative model for education for students who do not go on to  
15 postsecondary education; and

16 WHEREAS, There exists a need to identify research-based models that better  
17 prepare students for entry into the workplace and for lifelong advancement and  
18 learning; and

19 WHEREAS, There has been interest in the establishment of vocational and  
20 technical training academies in Prince George's County; and

21 WHEREAS, There is a need for a broad-based forum, with participation from  
22 many stakeholders, for the exploration of these topics in ways that lead to practical  
23 solutions; now, therefore,

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

26 (a) There is a Task Force on the Establishment of Vocational and Technical  
27 Education High School Academies in Prince George's County.

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

29 (1) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
30 of the House;

1                   (2) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
2 President of the Senate;

3                   (3) Three members appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the  
4 Prince George's County public school system;

5                   (4) Two members appointed by the Prince George's County Executive;

6                   (5) Three members appointed by the Prince George's County Council;

7                   (6) Two members appointed by the Prince George's County Chamber  
8 of Commerce;

9                   (7) Two members appointed by the Maryland State Superintendent of  
10 Schools;

11                   (8) One member appointed by the Prince George's County Economic  
12 Development Corporation;

13                   (9) One member appointed by the President of Prince George's  
14 Community College; and

15                   (10) One member employed by the Maryland State and District of  
16 Columbia AFL-CIO who is familiar with union apprenticeship programs, appointed by  
17 the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO.

18           (c) The members of the Task Force shall designate the chair of the Task  
19 Force.

20           (d) The Prince George's County public school system shall provide staff for  
21 the Task Force.

22           (e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on  
23 the Task Force but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
24 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

25           (f) The Task Force shall:

26                   (1) Examine the needs of students in the Prince George's County  
27 public school system who are not completing high school to determine if they are being  
28 prepared for meaningful work and citizenship;

1           (2)    Examine the needs of students in the Prince George's County  
2 public school system who are not going on to postsecondary education to determine if  
3 they are being prepared for meaningful work and citizenship;

4           (3)    Explore whether the high school curriculum is contributing to the  
5 decisions of some students not to complete high school;

6           (4)    Examine the workforce needs of the community, focusing especially  
7 on present and future opportunities for workers who are not college educated;

8           (5)    Examine whether the current Prince George's County public high  
9 school curriculum meets the needs of students who are not going on to postsecondary  
10 education;

11          (6)    Explore research-based alternatives to the current Prince George's  
12 County public high school curriculum that might better prepare students who are not  
13 going on to postsecondary education;

14          (7)    Identify strategies and approaches that might better address the  
15 needs of students not going on to postsecondary education, including the feasibility of  
16 curriculum changes and the development of vocational and technical high school  
17 academies and other alternative instructional models;

18          (8)    Identify legal, financial, regulatory, and organizational obstacles to  
19 the implementation of curriculum and instructional changes in Prince George's  
20 County public high schools, including the use of vocational and technical academies;

21          (9)    Explore the willingness of stakeholders in Prince George's County  
22 to implement changes to curriculum and instruction in the county's public high  
23 schools; and

24          (g)    On or before July 1, 2008, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
25 recommendations to the Governor, Prince George's County Executive, Prince George's  
26 County Council, Prince George's County Board of Education, and, in accordance with §  
27 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

28           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
29 July 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the  
30 end of July 31, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
31 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.