

HOUSE BILL 830

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71r1872

By: **Washington County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2007

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County – Board of Education – Regional Election Districts**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Electoral Process for
4 Members Serving on the Washington County Board of Education; specifying the
5 membership of the Task Force; specifying the duties of the Task Force;
6 providing for the staffing of the Task Force; providing that members of the Task
7 Force may receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task
8 Force to hold a certain number of public hearings; requiring the Task Force to
9 issue a certain report by a certain date to the Washington County Delegation
10 and the Washington County Board of County Commissioners; providing for the
11 termination of this Act; providing for the effective date of certain provisions of
12 this Act; providing for the termination of this Act under certain circumstances;
13 submitting this Act to a referendum of the legally qualified voters of
14 Washington County; and generally relating to the Washington County Board of
15 Education.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) In this section, “Washington County Delegation” means the Senators and
19 Delegates who are elected from Washington County or any portion of Washington
20 County.

21 (b) There is a Task Force to Study the Electoral Process for Members Serving
22 on the Washington County Board of Education.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) The Task Force consists of the following 21 voting members:

2 (1) the President of the Washington County Board of County
3 Commissioners, or the President's designee;

4 (2) three members appointed by the President of the Washington
5 County Board of Education;

6 (3) seven members of the Washington County Council of Parent
7 Teacher Associations appointed by the President of the Washington County Council of
8 Parent Teacher Associations, including one member from each of the seven feeder
9 patterns for geographic diversity throughout the county;

10 (4) seven members of the Washington County Citizen's Advisory
11 Council appointed by the Chairman of the Washington County Citizen's Advisory
12 Council, including one member from each of the seven feeder patterns for geographic
13 diversity throughout the county;

14 (5) one member of the Washington County Teachers' Association,
15 appointed by the President of the Washington County Teachers' Association;

16 (6) one member of the Washington County Educational Support
17 Personnel, appointed by the President of the Washington County Educational Support
18 Personnel; and

19 (7) one member of the Washington County Retired Teachers'
20 Association, appointed by the President of the Washington County Retired Teachers'
21 Association.

22 (d) In addition to the 21 voting members under subsection (c) of this section,
23 the Task Force shall include one nonvoting student member appointed by the
24 President of the Washington County Association of Student Councils.

25 (e) The chair of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Washington County
26 Delegation from among the 21 voting members serving on the Task Force.

27 (f) The Washington County Board of Education shall provide the staff for the
28 Task Force.

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

1 (h) The responsibilities of the Task Force include:

2 (1) recommending a process to the Washington County Delegation for
3 electing Board of Education members by regional districts, including suggested
4 methods and boundaries;

5 (2) studying alternatives to the current election process for members
6 serving on the Washington County Board of Education, including:

7 (i) election by designated districts; and

8 (ii) a combination of election by designated districts and election
9 at large;

10 (3) studying the implications of implementing a residency requirement
11 for candidates running for the Washington County Board of Education under various
12 electoral methods;

13 (4) analyzing other alternative electoral processes throughout the
14 State with regard to other boards of education, including any benefits and obstacles
15 that may be faced by both at-large and district-elected boards; and

16 (5) recommending how to stagger terms of office for members of the
17 Washington County Board of Education, if applicable.

18 (i) (1) The Task Force shall hold at least three public hearings at which
19 the public shall have the opportunity to speak to the issues the Task Force is charged
20 with studying under subsection (h) of this section.

21 (2) At least 10 days before the public hearing provided for in
22 paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Task Force shall publish notice of the time and
23 place of the public hearing with a summary of the issues the Task Force is charged
24 with studying in at least one newspaper of general circulation in Washington County.

25 (j) (1) The Task Force shall submit a final report of its findings and
26 recommendations to the Washington County Delegation on or before December 31,
27 2009.

28 (2) When preparing a final report for the Washington County
29 Delegation, the Task Force shall address in the report the concerns raised by the
30 public at the hearings held under subsection (i) of this section.

1 (3) The findings and recommendations of the Task Force to the
2 Washington County Delegation may not be construed as mandates to the Washington
3 County Delegation.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That before this Act becomes
5 effective it shall first be submitted to a referendum of the legally qualified voters of
6 Washington County at the general election to be held in November 2008. The Board of
7 County Commissioners and the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Washington
8 County shall do those things necessary and proper to provide for and hold the
9 referendum required by this section. There shall be printed on the ballot to be used at
10 this election the title of this Act and underneath the title, on separate lines, a square
11 or box opposite the words "For a Washington County Board of Education to be Elected
12 by Regional Districts" and a corresponding square or box opposite the words "For a
13 Board of Education Elected At-Large". A voter may choose only one of the methods of
14 selection. If a majority of the votes cast on the question are "For a Washington County
15 Board of Education to be Elected by Regional Districts" Section 1 of this Act shall
16 become effective on the 30th day following the official canvass of votes for the
17 referendum and shall remain effective until the end of June 30, 2010, with no further
18 action required by the General Assembly, Section 1 of this Act shall be abrogated and
19 of no further force and effect. If a majority of the votes cast on the question are "For a
20 Board of Education Elected At-Large" the provisions of this Act are of no effect and
21 immediately null and void.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions
23 of Section 2 of this Act and for the sole purpose of providing for the referendum
24 required by Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.