

HOUSE BILL 902

E2
HB 1548/06 – HGO

71r0481

By: **Delegate Niemann**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2007

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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
14 Resolve Conflict.

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

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

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

20 (3) twelve members, to be appointed by the Governor to include:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) one person representing the elementary and secondary
2 educational community;
- 3 (ii) one person with experience working in the juvenile justice
4 system;
- 5 (iii) one person with experience working in the adult criminal
6 justice system;
- 7 (iv) one person with experience in mediation or other alternative
8 dispute resolution programs;
- 9 (v) two persons with experience with community oriented
10 conflict resolution programs, such as community conferencing or community
11 mediation;
- 12 (vi) one person representing the Maryland Association of
13 Community Mediation Centers; and
- 14 (vii) five members of the public at large; and
- 15 (4) one member appointed by the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court
16 of Appeals.
- 17 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 18 (d) The Governor's office shall provide staff support to the Task Force.
- 19 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 20 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 21 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
22 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 23 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 24 (1) identify research-tested best practices for promoting
25 understanding and the peaceful resolution of conflicts;
- 26 (2) examine obstacles to nonviolent conflict resolution;

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

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

4 (i) to promote and support proven peaceful conflict resolution
5 approaches at the local and state level of the public sector and in the private sector;
6 and

7 (ii) to promote increased tolerance and understanding between
8 diverse communities and constituencies;

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

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

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

17 (g) On or before December 1, 2008, the Task Force shall report its findings
18 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
19 Government Article, the General Assembly.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of
22 September 30, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
23 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.