

SENATE BILL 112

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By: **Senators Britt, Miller, Muse, Peters, Pinsky, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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

16 Preamble

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 MARYLAND, That:

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

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

26 (1) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
27 of the House;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (c) The members of the Task Force shall designate the chair of the Task
17 Force.

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

20 (e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on
21 the Task Force but 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) Examine the needs of students in the Prince George's County
25 public school system who are not completing high school to determine if they are being
26 prepared for meaningful work and citizenship;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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