

SENATE BILL 468

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71r1300

By: **Senator Gladden**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Free College Tuition for Low-Income Students**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Free College Tuition for
4 Low-Income Students; providing for the membership, chair, and staffing of the
5 Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from being compensated;
6 authorizing a member to be reimbursed for expenses under certain
7 circumstances; requiring the Task Force to examine and develop data on certain
8 matters and to issue a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
9 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
10 relating to the Task Force to Study Free College Tuition for Low-Income
11 Students.

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, A college-educated citizenry is critical to Maryland's continuing
14 economic prosperity and the vitality of its communities; and

15 WHEREAS, Capable students who are disadvantaged often lack the financial
16 resources to attend postsecondary institutions of higher education, or, once enrolled, to
17 complete their courses of study; and

18 WHEREAS, Several states and individual institutions of higher education
19 throughout the United States are considering or have embarked on ambitious
20 programs to dramatically increase the college enrollment of capable students from
21 disadvantaged populations by making available to those students substantial
22 scholarships, grants, and other financial aid; now, therefore,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Free College Tuition for Low-Income
4 Students.

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

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

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

10 (3) the Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or
11 the Secretary's designee;

12 (4) the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the
13 Chancellor's designee;

14 (5) the President of Morgan State University, or the President's
15 designee;

16 (6) the President of St. Mary's College, or the President's designee;

17 (7) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's
18 designee;

19 (8) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
20 designee; and

21 (9) the following individuals appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) a member of the State Board of Education;

23 (ii) a member of the Maryland Higher Education Commission;

24 (iii) an administrator from each of two member institutions of
25 the University System of Maryland, nominated by the Chancellor of the System;

26 (iv) the President of a community college in this State;

- 1 (v) a county superintendent of schools;
- 2 (vi) a member of a local board of education;
- 3 (vii) a public high school principal nominated by the State
4 Superintendent of Schools; and
- 5 (viii) three members of the public.
- 6 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 7 (d) The Department of Budget and Management and the University System
8 of Maryland shall provide staff support for the Task Force.
- 9 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 10 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 11 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
12 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 13 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 14 (1) examine and compare the financial aid policies of public
15 institutions of higher education in the State and of public and private institutions of
16 higher education in other states as they relate to financial aid policies and programs
17 for low-income and disadvantaged students;
- 18 (2) identify whether there are impediments to full participation in
19 institutional, State, or federal financial aid programs for higher education by
20 low-income and disadvantaged students in this State, particularly individuals who
21 qualify for federal Pell Grants;
- 22 (3) develop data on the estimated cost to provide free tuition at public
23 institutions of higher education in this State for low-income and disadvantaged
24 students, particularly individuals who qualify for federal Pell Grants; and
- 25 (4) on or before December 31, 2007, issue a report of its findings and
26 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
27 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, at the end of June 30,

1 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.