

HOUSE BILL 539

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By: **Delegates Robinson, Anderson, Barkley, Branch, Braveboy, Burns, Cane, Carter, Conaway, DeBoy, Doory, Dumais, Griffith, Harrison, Haynes, Howard, Kaiser, Kirk, Manno, Montgomery, Oaks, Pena-Melnyk, Proctor, Rosenberg, Stukes, Tarrant, Taylor, V. Turner, Valderrama, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2008

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Impact of Sleep Apnea on Children**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Impact of Sleep Apnea on
4 Children; providing for the composition and staffing of the Task Force;
5 specifying the duties of the Task Force; providing certain reimbursement for
6 travel expenses; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and
7 recommendations on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of
8 this Act; and generally relating to a Task Force to Study the Impact of Sleep
9 Apnea on Children.

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

12 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Impact of Sleep Apnea on Children.

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

14 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
15 of the Senate;

16 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
17 the House;

18 (3) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
19 designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's
2 designee;

3 (5) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

4 (i) one expert in pediatric obstructive sleep apnea;

5 (ii) one licensed nutritionist who specializes in pediatric
6 nutrition; and

7 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Association of Resources
8 for Families and Youth.

9 (c) The members of the Task Force shall elect the chair from among the
10 members of the Task Force.

11 (d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the State
12 Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

13 (e) A member of the Task Force:

14 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

15 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
16 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

17 (f) The Task Force shall:

18 (1) study the impact of obesity and disruptive sleep disorders on
19 children between the ages of 1 and 8;

20 (2) establish programs to educate health care professionals, teachers,
21 and parents on the signs and symptoms of sleep apnea;

22 (3) develop a screening tool or questionnaire for pediatric obstructive
23 sleep apnea;

24 (4) implement a screening program for pediatric obstructive sleep
25 apnea; and

26 (5) develop mechanisms for referring children with possible
27 obstructive sleep apnea to appropriate health care providers.

28 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings to the Governor and, subject to §
29 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December
30 31, 2009.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at
3 the end of March 31, 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
4 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.