

HOUSE BILL 758

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8lr1778

By: **Delegates Glenn, Anderson, Conaway, Hammen, Harrison, Haynes, Kirk, McHale, Robinson, Stukes, and Tarrant**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2008
Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Placement of Vulnerable Children**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Placement of Vulnerable
4 Children; providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing
5 for the designation of a chair of the Task Force; requiring the Department of
6 Human Resources to provide staff for the Task Force; prohibiting members of
7 the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member to
8 receive certain reimbursement; requiring the Task Force to report its findings
9 and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a
10 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
11 the Task Force to Study the Placement of Vulnerable Children.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Placement of Vulnerable Children.

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

16 (1) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
17 President of the Senate;

18 (2) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
19 of the House;

20 (3) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
21 designee;

22 (4) The Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) The local director of the Baltimore City Department of Social
2 Services;

3 (6) A representative of the Judicial Branch, appointed by the Chief
4 Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

5 (7) The following members, appointed by the Governor:

6 (i) One representative of the State's Attorneys' Association;

7 (ii) One representative of the State Citizens Review Board for
8 Children;

9 (iii) One representative of local citizen review panels;

10 (iv) One representative of the Maryland Chapter of the
11 American Academy of Pediatrics;

12 (v) One representative of the Coalition to Protect Maryland's
13 Children;

14 (vi) One social worker; and

15 (vii) Three members of the general public.

16 (c) The Secretary of Human Resources shall serve as chair of the Task Force.

17 (d) The Department of Human Resources shall provide staff for the Task
18 Force.

19 (e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving as
20 a member of the Task Force but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the
21 Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

22 (f) The Task Force shall study:

23 (1) The process for removing a child from a home and placing the child
24 with a guardian;

25 (2) The process for selecting a guardian for a child in out-of-home
26 placement;

27 (3) The procedures for allowing a guardian to obtain benefits for which
28 the child or the guardian may be eligible;

29 (4) Situations or circumstances where a child is placed with a
30 guardian without the official knowledge of a local department of social services;

1 (5) The process and procedures for determining the size of foster care
2 families, and what limits exist on the number of children placed in a foster care
3 family; and

4 (6) The development of a “report card” or similar rating scale to assess
5 the performance of local departments of social services in the areas of child protective
6 services and foster care.

7 (g) On or before December 15, 2009, the Task Force shall submit a final
8 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
9 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the
12 end of December 31, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
13 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.