

HOUSE BILL 1451

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By: **Delegate Heller**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2008

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Standardizing Introductory Courses in Higher**
3 **Education in Maryland**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Standardizing Introductory
5 Courses in Higher Education in Maryland; providing for the composition, chair,
6 and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting members of the Task Force from
7 receiving compensation but entitling members to reimbursement for expenses
8 under certain regulations; requiring the Task Force to study and make
9 recommendations regarding the standardization of introductory level courses at
10 public institutions of higher education and community colleges in the State;
11 requiring the Task Force to consult certain representatives when developing
12 certain recommendations; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain report to
13 the Governor, Maryland Higher Education Commission, and certain committees
14 of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
15 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study
16 Standardizing Introductory Courses in Higher Education in Maryland.

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

19 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Standardizing of Introductory Courses in
20 Higher Education in Maryland.

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

22 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
23 President of the Senate;

24 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
25 of the House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

2 (4) the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the
3 Chancellor's designee;

4 (5) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Community
5 Colleges (MACC), or the Executive Director's designee; and

6 (6) the following nine members, appointed by the Governor:

7 (i) three presidents of 4-year public institutions of higher
8 education;

9 (ii) three instructional deans of 4-year public institutions of
10 higher education; and

11 (iii) three presidents of community colleges.

12 (c) In making appointments to the Task Force, the Governor shall give
13 consideration to geographic and institutional representation.

14 (d) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

15 (e) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide staff for the
16 Task Force.

17 (f) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

21 (g) The Task Force shall:

22 (1) study the teaching standards, testing, and accountability of
23 credited courses that are assigned a 101, 102, 201, or 202 level number or equivalent
24 introductory level designation in public institutions of higher education and
25 community colleges in the State; and

26 (2) make recommendations on the feasibility of standardizing the
27 curriculum of basic freshman and sophomore higher education courses in order to:

28 (i) better facilitate the transfer of students between community
29 colleges and 4-year institutions of higher education;

30 (ii) improve the transferability of credits between institutions of
31 higher education and community colleges; and

1 (iii) lower the costs of textbooks.

2 (h) The Task Force shall consult with the following representatives while
3 developing the recommendations under subsection (g) of this section:

4 (1) academic advisors for freshman and sophomore higher education
5 students;

6 (2) textbook publishers;

7 (3) psychometric professionals with qualifications for academic
8 testing; and

9 (4) any other professionals with relevant information as determined
10 by the Task Force.

11 (i) The Task Force shall submit a report to the Governor, the Maryland
12 Higher Education Commission, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
13 Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate
14 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House Appropriations
15 Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee, on its findings and
16 recommendations on or before September 30, 2009.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period 1 year and 4 months and, at the end
19 of November 1, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
20 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.