

# SENATE BILL 78

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SB 330/07 – EHE

8lr0856

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By: **Senators Kelley, Colburn, Conway, Currie, Exum, McFadden, Muse, Pugh, Raskin, Rosapepe, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study System Variables That Impact Student Achievement in**  
3 **Underperforming Public Schools**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study System Variables That  
5 Impact Student Achievement in Underperforming Public Schools; providing for  
6 the membership, purposes, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a  
7 member of the Task Force from receiving compensation but entitling members  
8 to certain reimbursement for certain expenses under certain regulations in the  
9 State budget; requiring the Task Force to study education system variables that  
10 impact student achievement in underperforming public schools; requiring the  
11 Task Force to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or  
12 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally  
13 relating to the Task Force to Study System Variables That Impact Student  
14 Achievement in Underperforming Public Schools.

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, Both national and State education policies are based on the  
17 principle that no child be left behind; and

18 WHEREAS, The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that all students  
19 achieve proficiency in reading, mathematics, science, and other core subject areas by  
20 2014; and

21 WHEREAS, The school–age population in Maryland continues to grow and has  
22 increased in racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Maryland's School Assessment 2003 results indicate that 63% of  
2 economically disadvantaged students, 73% of English language learners, and 74% of  
3 students with disabilities are below proficiency in reading and mathematics; and

4 WHEREAS, Maryland's future economic and social vitality depends on the  
5 successful education of all its children; and

6 WHEREAS, Maryland recognizes that the presence of highly effective teachers  
7 and principals in all schools is the key to achievement of all students; and

8 WHEREAS, There is a critical shortage in Maryland of highly effective teachers  
9 and principals available and committed to serving students in underperforming  
10 schools; now, therefore,

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force to Study System Variables That Impact Student  
14 Achievement in Underperforming Public Schools.

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

16 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
17 President of the Senate;

18 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
19 of the House;

20 (3) one member of the Legislative Black Caucus, appointed by the  
21 Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus;

22 (4) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's  
23 designee; and

24 (5) the following nine members, appointed by the Governor:

25 (i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of  
26 Education;

27 (ii) one representative of the Maryland State Teachers  
28 Association;

29 (iii) one representative of the Public School Superintendents  
30 Association of Maryland;

31 (iv) one representative of the Maryland Parent and Teachers  
32 Association;

1 (v) one representative of the Maryland Association of Secondary  
2 School Principals;

3 (vi) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

4 (vii) one representative of the Maryland Education Coalition;

5 (viii) one representative from an organization representing school  
6 children with disabilities; and

7 (ix) one representative from the Baltimore Teachers Union.

8 (c) The Governor shall attempt to appoint the members of the Task Force so  
9 that the Task Force reflects the regional, ethnic, economic, and gender diversity of the  
10 State.

11 (d) The Governor shall designate the two co-chairs of the Task Force from  
12 among the legislative membership on the Task Force so that one chair is a Senator  
13 and one chair is a Delegate.

14 (e) The Maryland State Department of Education and the Department of  
15 Legislative Services shall jointly provide staff for the Task Force.

16 (f) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

20 (g) The Task Force shall study education system variables that may impact  
21 student achievement in underperforming public schools, including:

22 (1) educational leadership;

23 (2) class size;

24 (3) teacher quality;

25 (4) facilities; and

26 (5) any other areas determined to be relevant by the Task Force.

27 (h) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
28 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the  
29 General Assembly, on or before December 1, 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 2 months and, at  
3   the end of November 30, 2009, with no further action required by the General  
4   Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.