

SENATE BILL 533

F1, I1

(8lr2712)

ENROLLED BILL

—*Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs / Ways and Means*—

Introduced by **Senators Muse, Frosh, Garagiola, Jones, McFadden, Peters, Pugh, ~~and Raskin~~ Raskin, Conway, Harrington, Klausmeier, Lenett, and Rosapepe**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study How to Improve Financial Literacy in the State**

3 FOR the purpose of creating a Task Force to Study How to Improve Financial Literacy
4 in the State; providing for the composition, co-chairs, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; providing that a member of the Task Force may not receive compensation
6 but may be reimbursed for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study
7 the ability of certain consumers to understand certain financial concepts and
8 the problems created for certain consumers by a lack of financial literacy or
9 knowledge; requiring the Task Force to make certain recommendations;
10 requiring the Task Force to report certain findings and recommendations to the
11 Governor and to the General Assembly; providing for the termination of this
12 Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study How to Improve
13 Financial Literacy in the State.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.



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

3 (a) There is a Task Force to Study How to Improve Financial Literacy in the
4 State.

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

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

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

10 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's
11 designee;

12 (4) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
13 Secretary's designee;

14 (5) the Chief of the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the
15 Attorney General, or the Chief's designee;

16 (6) the Commissioner of Financial Regulation in the Department of
17 Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Commissioner's designee;

18 ~~(4) (6)~~ (7) the following members, appointed jointly by the President of
19 the Senate and the Speaker of the House:

20 (i) ~~one representative~~ two representatives of the Maryland
21 State Teachers Association, one of whom teaches a course involving principles of
22 financial literacy;

23 (ii) one representative of the American Federation of Teachers;

24 ~~(ii)~~ (iii) one representative from the consumer credit counseling
25 industry; and

26 ~~(iii)~~ (iv) two representatives from a community development
27 corporation or a community-focused nonprofit organization; and

28 ~~(5) (7)~~ (8) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

29 (i) one representative of the Maryland State Board of
30 Education;

1 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Council on Economic
2 Education;

3 (iii) one representative of a State-chartered community bank;

4 (iv) one representative of a State-chartered credit union;

5 (v) one representative of a federal-chartered bank or savings
6 bank that has a branch in Maryland;

7 (vi) one representative of a federal-chartered credit union
8 headquartered in Maryland; and

9 (vii) one licensed mortgage broker holding the Maryland
10 Association of Mortgage Brokers' "Lending Seal of Integrity".

11 (c) (1) The President of the Senate shall designate one of the members
12 appointed from the Senate as co-chair of the Task Force.

13 (2) The Speaker of the House shall designate one of the members
14 appointed from the House as co-chair of the Task Force.

15 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task
16 Force.

17 (e) 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 (f) The Task Force shall:

22 (1) study the current ability of high school students to understand
23 basic financial concepts;

24 (2) evaluate the current provision of financial literacy education in
25 Maryland's public schools;

26 (3) assess the utility of financial literacy education as part of primary
27 and secondary education;

28 ~~(4)~~ (4) study the current ability of consumers over the age of 21 who have
29 achieved a high school diploma to understand basic financial concepts;

1 ~~(2)~~ (5) study the problems created for the average consumer by a lack of
2 financial literacy or knowledge, including an inability to:

3 (i) determine how to set financial goals;

4 (ii) establish basic household budgets;

5 (iii) locate the best-priced financial services products relative to
6 current economic situations;

7 (iv) understand how credit can improve or impede progress
8 toward financial goals; and

9 (v) evaluate offers for products; and

10 ~~(3)~~ (6) make recommendations regarding:

11 (i) how to address the problems identified under ~~paragraph (2)~~
12 *item (5) of this subsection*; and

13 (ii) the ~~utility~~ benefits and drawbacks of requiring financial
14 literacy education as part of primary and secondary education.

15 (g) On or before December 1, 2008, the Task Force shall report to the
16 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
17 General Assembly regarding its findings and recommendations.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
20 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
21 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.