

# HOUSE BILL 1111

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By: **Delegate Cardin**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2009

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Summer Learning**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Summer Learning; establishing the  
4 membership and staffing of the Task Force; providing for the designation of the  
5 chair of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to evaluate and make policy  
6 recommendations regarding certain issues; prohibiting a member of the Task  
7 Force from receiving certain compensation; prohibiting the use of State funds to  
8 support Task Force activities; allowing the Task Force to solicit funding from  
9 public and private foundations and to make use of certain federal funds;  
10 requiring the Task Force to submit a certain report to the Governor and the  
11 General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;  
12 and generally relating to the Task Force on Summer Learning.

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, There is clear evidence that high-quality summer learning  
15 programs can achieve positive outcomes for children and youth in the areas of  
16 academics, safety, health and prevention, social and emotional skill building, civic  
17 engagement, and development of 21st century skills; and

18 WHEREAS, All children and youth experience learning losses when they do not  
19 engage in educational activities during the summer; and

20 WHEREAS, Children and youth from low-income families have limited access  
21 to high-quality summer programs and are disproportionately impacted by summer  
22 learning loss; and

23 WHEREAS, A recent study by the Johns Hopkins University found that  
24 two-thirds of the achievement gap in reading can be attributed solely to unequal  
25 summer learning opportunities; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Research indicates that children at high risk of obesity gain weight  
2 up to three times more rapidly during the summer months; and

3 WHEREAS, Maryland has multiple funding streams supporting summer  
4 learning programs with distinct funding policies and priorities that are not  
5 coordinated across administering State and local agencies, resulting in gaps and  
6 inefficiencies; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Congress recently passed legislation that could  
8 provide states with funding to administer summer learning programs; and

9 WHEREAS, Maryland seeks to be a national leader in this emerging national  
10 policy priority; now, therefore,

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force on Summer Learning.

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

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

17 (2) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
18 of the House;

19 (3) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's  
20 designee;

21 (4) The following members, appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) One official working in the Executive Branch;

23 (ii) One representative of the Governor's Office for Children;  
24 and

25 (iii) One representative of a Maryland school district with  
26 relevant policy experience; and

27 (5) The following members, appointed internally by each organization  
28 or agency:

29 (i) One representative of the Maryland State Teachers  
30 Association;

31 (ii) One representative of the Department of Juvenile Services;

- 1 (iii) One representative of the Department of Labor, Licensing,  
2 and Regulation;
- 3 (iv) One representative of the Maryland Parent–Teacher  
4 Association;
- 5 (v) One representative of the Maryland Out–of–School Time  
6 Network; and
- 7 (vi) One student representative of the Maryland Association of  
8 Student Councils.

9 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

10 (d) The National Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University  
11 shall provide staff support for the Task Force.

12 (e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on  
13 the Task Force.

14 (f) The Task Force shall:

15 (1) Conduct a study of summer learning programs from  
16 prekindergarten through grade 12;

17 (2) Analyze supply and demand data regarding summer learning  
18 programming in Maryland;

19 (3) Analyze existing federal and State funding streams to leverage  
20 support for summer learning programs and provide more healthy meals in summer;

21 (4) Consider extant research on summer learning and summer  
22 learning program models currently operating in other states and communities;

23 (5) Make policy recommendations to:

24 (i) Increase access to and provision of high–quality summer  
25 learning opportunities for children and youth across the State, including summer  
26 programs in school districts and community–based summer programs; and

27 (ii) Improve integration across community–based organizations’  
28 programs and school districts to address the comprehensive nature of children’s  
29 healthy development and readiness for adulthood and workforce entrance;

30 (6) Identify and promote State and local coordination of summer  
31 learning opportunities; and

1                   (7) Meet quarterly to obtain input on the topic of summer learning  
2 from stakeholders, experts, summer learning providers, members of the public, and  
3 any other individuals it determines necessary.

4           (g)   (1) State funds may not be used to support Task Force activities.

5                   (2) The Task Force may:

6                           (i) Solicit funding from public and private foundations; and

7                           (ii) Make use of available federal funds.

8           (h) On or before December 1, 2010, the Task Force shall report its findings  
9 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
10 Government Article, the General Assembly.

11           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 July 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June  
13 30, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
14 abrogated and of no further force and effect.