

# HOUSE BILL 1240

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HB 1533/08 – HGO

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By: **Delegates Nathan–Pulliam, Benson, Burns, Carter, Glenn, Harrison, Kirk, Oaks, Robinson, Stukes, Tarrant, and V. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2009

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Health Disparities Among Minority Children with**  
3 **Learning Disabilities**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Health Disparities Among  
5 Minority Children with Learning Disabilities; specifying the membership and  
6 the staff of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to study certain issues;  
7 requiring the Task Force to make certain reports; providing for the termination  
8 of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of the Task Force to  
9 Study Health Disparities Among Minority Children with Learning Disabilities.

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

12 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Health Disparities Among Minority  
13 Children with Learning Disabilities.

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

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

17 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
18 the House;

19 (3) one representative of the Maryland Office of Minority Health and  
20 Health Disparities, appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

21 (4) the following 12 members, appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) one representative of the Maryland Disability Law Center;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) one representative of the Hopkins Center for Health  
2 Disparities Solutions;

3 (iii) one representative of the National Center for Health  
4 Behavior Change at Morgan State University;

5 (iv) one representative of the Coalition to End Childhood Lead  
6 Poisoning;

7 (v) one representative of Morgan State University with  
8 expertise regarding health disparities and their effect on learning disabled adults;

9 (vi) one neurologist with expertise in attention  
10 deficit/hyperactivity disorder and other learning disabilities;

11 (vii) two parents of adolescent children with attention  
12 deficit/hyperactivity disorder or another learning disability;

13 (viii) two adults with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder;

14 (ix) one psychologist with expertise in urban psychology; and

15 (x) one physician with expertise in sleep apnea.

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

17 (d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the  
18 Task Force.

19 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

23 (f) The Task Force shall study:

24 (1) the extent and nature of health disparities among minority  
25 children, including African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and  
26 American Indians, with documented learning disabilities;

27 (2) the causes of health disparities among minority children with  
28 documented learning disabilities and how to eliminate those disparities, including the  
29 effect of sleep apnea on minority children with documented learning disabilities;

1           (3)    how to improve access to and delivery of services to minority  
2 children with documented learning disabilities;

3           (4)    the extent of compliance of service providers to minority children  
4 with documented learning disabilities with the provisions of the federal Americans  
5 with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12102; and

6           (5)    any other matter the Task Force deems relevant to the study of  
7 health disparities among children with documented learning disabilities and  
8 compliance of service providers with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of  
9 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12102.

10          (g)    On or before December 31, 2009, the Task Force shall report its findings  
11 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
12 Government Article, the General Assembly.

13          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 June 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,  
15 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
16 abrogated and of no further force and effect.