

Chapter 286

(Senate Bill 755)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study High School Dropout Rates of Persons in the Criminal Justice System

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study High School Dropout Rates of Persons in the Criminal Justice System; providing for the membership and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to designate the chair of the Task Force; providing that a member of the Task Force may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force but is entitled to a certain reimbursement; requiring the Task Force to study certain issues, obtain certain data, and make certain recommendations and to ~~make certain reports~~ report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study High School Dropout Rates of Persons in the Criminal Justice System.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study High School Dropout Rates of Persons in the Criminal Justice System.

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

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

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

(3) the State Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's designee;

(4) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the Secretary's designee;

(5) one representative of the Office of the Public Defender; ~~and~~

(6) one representative of the Office of the Attorney General;

- (7) one representative from the Department of Juvenile Services;
- (8) one representative from the Maryland Association of Boards of Education; and
- (9) one representative of the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland.
- (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- (d) ~~The Department of Budget and Management~~ Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- (e) A member of the Task Force:
- (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
 - (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- (f) The Task Force shall:
- (1) study the high school dropout statistics of people who have been incarcerated, arrested, or otherwise processed through the criminal justice system;
~~and~~
 - (2) study the fiscal impact on the criminal justice system of people who have dropped out of high school;
 - (3) obtain existing statistical data from:
 - (i) the Department of Juvenile Services regarding the percentage of individuals served by the Department who have dropped out of high school; and
 - (ii) the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation on adults in the State who have dropped out of high school; and
 - (4) make recommendations on:
 - (i) how individuals can be kept in high school until graduation;
 - (ii) the availability of continuing education options for individuals who have not received a high school diploma while those individuals are incarcerated; and

(iii) how individuals can be informed of alternative high school education or work-related programs.

(g) On or before December 31, ~~2011~~ 2012, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~1 year~~ 2 years and, at the end of May 31, ~~2012~~ 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2011.