

## Chapter 665

(House Bill 493)

AN ACT concerning

### **Task Force to Study Economic Development and Apprenticeships**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Economic Development and Apprenticeships; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; establishing the duties of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Economic Development and Apprenticeships.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Economic Development and Apprenticeships.

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

(3) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the Secretary's designee;

(4) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary's designee;

(5) the Secretary of Education, or the Secretary's designee; and

(6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the community college system;

(ii) two members of the business community who have existing apprenticeship programs; ~~and~~

(iii) one member of the public who has benefited from participation in an apprenticeship program;

(iv) one member of the public who holds a doctoral degree in economics, specializes in labor economics, and has expertise in and has published work on U.S. and international apprenticeship systems, including youth apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship programs;

(v) one representative from the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 Maryland/Virginia/DC;

(vi) one representative of the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council;

(vii) two representatives of group nonjoint apprenticeship programs; and

(viii) two representatives from unions that are members of the Maryland State and D.C. Building and Construction Trades Council and that have apprenticeship programs.

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

(d) The Department of ~~Labor, Licensing, and Regulation~~ Legislative Services 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 effectiveness of existing apprenticeship programs within the State;~~

(2) primarily research the effectiveness of apprenticeship programs in other states as well as international apprenticeship programs, particularly those in Germany and Switzerland and those in which U.S. businesses participate abroad and,

based on that research, consider how existing apprenticeship programs in Maryland could be improved; ~~and~~

(2) study the effectiveness of existing apprenticeship programs within the State;

(3) address the contributions of secondary schools to successful apprenticeship programs, and recommend ways to enhance partnerships between secondary schools and apprenticeship programs and increase the effectiveness of their interactions;

(4) determine whether a major expansion of apprenticeship in the State, through the use of youth apprenticeship or registered apprenticeship programs, is appropriate and feasible;

(5) if a major expansion of apprenticeship in the State is determined to be appropriate and feasible, develop and recommend a multiyear expansion plan; and

(6) develop and recommend for implementation in the State a pilot apprenticeship program that is based on successful and effective apprenticeship programs studied and researched by the Task Force.

(g) On or before December 1, 2013, 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 October 1, 2012. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and, at the end of December 31, 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 22, 2012.**