

# HOUSE BILL 1186

D4

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By: **Delegates McComas, Cardin, Carter, Clippinger, Cluster, DeBoy, Dumais, Eckardt, Frank, Glass, Hogan, Lee, McConkey, McDermott, McDonough, Mitchell, Otto, Ready, B. Robinson, Rosenberg, Simmons, Smigiel, Sophocleus, Stocksdale, Swain, Valentino-Smith, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2013

Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2013

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and  
4 Neglect; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force;  
5 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,  
6 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task  
7 Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring  
8 the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and  
9 the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination  
10 of this Act; and generally relating to child abuse and neglect.

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

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

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

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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.



- 1           (2) ~~two members~~ one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by  
2 the Speaker of the House;
- 3           (3) the State Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's  
4 designee;
- 5           (4) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's  
6 designee;
- 7           (5) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- 8           (6) ~~the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee~~ one  
9 representative of the Governor's Office for Children; and
- 10          (7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 11           (i) one representative of the Governor's Office of Crime Control  
12 and Prevention;
- 13           (ii) one representative of the State Council on Child Abuse and  
14 Neglect;
- 15           (iii) one representative of ~~public school employees with expertise~~  
16 ~~regarding the current operations and training practices within public schools on the~~  
17 ~~prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect~~ the Maryland  
18 Court-Appointed Special Advocate Program;
- 19           (iv) one representative of nonpublic school employees with  
20 expertise regarding the current operations and training practices within nonpublic  
21 schools on the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect;
- 22           (v) one representative of the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual  
23 Assault;
- 24           (vi) one representative of ~~a child advocacy center with expertise~~  
25 ~~in child abuse and victimization~~ Maryland Child Abuse Medical Providers or the  
26 Maryland Psychological Association;
- 27           (vii) one representative of the Maryland Children's Alliance;
- 28           (viii) one representative of an organization representing law  
29 enforcement;
- 30           ~~(ix) one representative of the mental health community;~~
- 31           ~~(x) one representative of the Maryland Child Abuse Medical~~  
32 ~~Professionals Network;~~

1                   ~~(xii)~~ (ix)       one representative of the Maryland chapter of the  
2 National Association of Social Workers;

3                   ~~(xiii)~~ (x)       one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys'  
4 Association; and

5                   ~~(xiii)~~ (xi)       up to three members of the general public who are  
6 actively involved in the field of child ~~abuse and neglect~~ abuse, neglect, and protection.

7           (c)       The membership of the Task Force shall reasonably reflect the  
8 geographic diversity of the State.

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

10           (e)       The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide staff  
11 for the Task Force with assistance from the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect.

12           (f)       A member of the Task Force:

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

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

16           (g)       The Task Force shall:

17                   (1)       hold hearings throughout the State and receive testimony from  
18 individuals, State and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other  
19 public and private organizations;

20                   (2)       invite representatives from interested stakeholder groups,  
21 including abuse survivors, caseworkers, mental health professionals, foster care  
22 providers, and representatives of religious organizations, to testify at public meetings  
23 to be held at various locations throughout the State;

24                   ~~(2)~~ (3) study:

25                           (i)       child abuse and neglect throughout the State; and

26                           (ii)       best practices throughout the United States regarding laws  
27 and systems designed to protect children and prevent child abuse and neglect; and

28                   ~~(3)~~ (4) make recommendations regarding:

29                           (i)       goals for State policies to prevent child abuse and neglect;

1 (ii) whether changes to the State's child abuse and neglect laws  
2 should be made, including whether criminal penalties should be established for the  
3 intentional failure to report child abuse or neglect;

4 (iii) methods for improving systems for reporting child abuse and  
5 neglect;

6 (iv) methods to foster excellence among multidisciplinary teams  
7 investigating child abuse and neglect and cooperation among State agencies and  
8 between the State and local governments that handle child abuse and neglect cases;

9 (v) methods for improving access to medical care and mental  
10 health services and treatment;

11 (vi) methods for increasing public awareness about child abuse  
12 and neglect;

13 (vii) methods for increasing funding to prevent and address  
14 childhood trauma; ~~and~~

15 (viii) methods for improving the training of professionals  
16 described in § 5-704 of the Family Law Article on the reporting of child abuse and  
17 neglect; and

18 (ix) methods to adopt and implement policy addressing the  
19 prevention of child abuse that may include age-appropriate curricula for students in  
20 pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

21 (h) On or before December 1, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings  
22 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
23 Government Article, the General Assembly.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,  
26 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
27 abrogated and of no further force and effect.