

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 823  
Appropriations

(Delegate M. Washington, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Task Force to Study Housing and Supportive Services for Unaccompanied  
Homeless Youth

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This bill establishes the Task Force to Study Housing and Supportive Services for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth, to be staffed by the Governor's Office for Children (GOC). The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2013.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013, and terminates June 30, 2014.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for GOC are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The task force must:

- compile existing information on and identify the unique needs of unaccompanied homeless youth, and identify the public- and private-sector programs and resources currently available to meet those needs;

- identify gaps in public- and private-sector programs and resources currently available to meet the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth;
- collect and compile data on the unaccompanied homeless youth population in the State, including the causes of homelessness in this population and the number of unaccompanied homeless youth in each jurisdiction of the State;
- make recommendations on legislation and policy initiatives to address the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth in the State;
- make recommendations on funding requirements and budgetary priorities to address the needs of unaccompanied youth in the State; and
- make recommendations on any other relevant issues or considerations identified by the task force.

The representative from GOC must serve as chair of the task force. Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

**Background:** The bill's preamble notes that there are over 1.6 million youth throughout the nation who are outside the care of a parent or guardian and without stable housing. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, 5% to 7% of American youth become homeless in any given year.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** Although SB 764 (Senator Conway - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) is designated as a cross file, it is different.

**Information Source(s):** Governor's Office for Children, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Coalition for the Homeless, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 2013  
ncs/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 26, 2013

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