

SENATE BILL 355

F5
SB 433/13 – EHE

4lr0684

By: **Senators Ferguson, Benson, Montgomery, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Establishment of Specialized and Accelerated**
3 **Educational Programs for Adult Learners**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Establishment of
5 Specialized and Accelerated Educational Programs for Adult Learners;
6 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting
7 a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but
8 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; establishing the duties of
9 the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report, on or before a certain date,
10 its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Senate Education,
11 Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, and the House Committee on
12 Ways and Means; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
13 relating to the Task Force to Study the Establishment of Specialized and
14 Accelerated Educational Programs for Adult Learners.

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

17 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Establishment of Specialized and
18 Accelerated Educational Programs for Adult Learners.

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

20 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
21 of the Senate;

22 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
23 the House;

24 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
25 designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (5) one representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of
4 Education, appointed by the Executive Director of the Association; and

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

6 (i) one representative of the Governor's Workforce Investment
7 Board;

8 (ii) one representative of an employee organization of public
9 school teachers;

10 (iii) two representatives of the charter school community;

11 (iv) two representatives of the adult literacy community;

12 (v) one representative of the business community; and

13 (vi) one representative of a local school district.

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

15 (d) The State Department of Education and the Department of Labor,
16 Licensing, and Regulation shall provide the staff for the Task Force.

17 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

21 (f) The Task Force shall:

22 (1) determine whether a structure for establishing and operating
23 specialized and accelerated educational programs for adult learners is needed and
24 would be beneficial to the State; and

25 (2) if a structure for establishing and operating specialized and
26 accelerated educational programs for adult learners is determined to be necessary and
27 beneficial to the State, study and make recommendations on:

28 (i) the appropriate structure for establishing and operating
29 specialized and accelerated educational programs for adult learners in the State;

1 (ii) a funding source for specialized and accelerated educational
2 programs for adult learners;

3 (iii) whether an exception to the age limits for public funding of
4 education should be created to allow students over 21 years old to be able to access
5 public primary and secondary education funding for specialized and accelerated
6 educational programs for adult learners;

7 (iv) the appropriate entity to authorize and provide oversight for
8 specialized and accelerated educational programs for adult learners;

9 (v) the appropriate methods of providing accountability for
10 specialized and accelerated educational programs for adult learners;

11 (vi) the qualifications required for an entity to apply to become a
12 specialized and accelerated educational program for adult learners; and

13 (vii) the statutory provisions required to establish a structure for
14 specialized and accelerated educational programs for adult learners in the State.

15 (g) On or before December 1, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings
16 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
17 Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
18 Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 June 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the
21 end of June 30, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
22 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.