

Chapter 411

(House Bill 278)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing 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 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain committees of 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 the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following ~~11~~ members:

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

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

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

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

(5) one representative of the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland, appointed by the Executive Director of the Association; ~~and~~

(6) one representative of the Maryland State Education Association, appointed by the Executive Director of the Association;

(7) one representative of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association, appointed by the President of the Association; and

~~(6)~~ (8) the following ~~six~~ members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of an employee organization of public school teachers;

(ii) one representative of a local school system;

(iii) two representatives of the dyslexia education community;

(iv) one representative of an organization that certifies dyslexia identification methodologies; ~~and~~

(v) one consumer member who has experience with dyslexia identification, education, and treatment; and

(vi) one representative of Decoding Dyslexia Maryland.

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

(d) The State Department of Education 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) determine current practices for identifying and treating dyslexia in students in Maryland public schools;

(2) determine current practices for identifying and treating dyslexia in other states;

(3) determine the appropriate structure for establishing a dyslexia education program and make recommendations on:

(i) the feasibility of funding a dyslexia education program through the State Department of Education or alternative funding mechanisms and sources or both;

(ii) the methodologies that should be used to test students and identify dyslexia and pre-dyslexia tendencies in students;

(iii) the appropriate age to begin testing for dyslexia and pre-dyslexia tendencies; and

(iv) the best practices for treating and educating students identified as having dyslexia or pre-dyslexia tendencies; and

(4) develop a pilot program to initiate the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force in an appropriately limited geographical area.

(g) On or before December 30, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2016, 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 12, 2015.