

HOUSE BILL 1216

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CF SB 648

By: **Delegate Knotts**

Introduced and read first time: February 27, 2015

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Effect of the Drug Ritalin on School Children**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Effect of the Drug Ritalin on
4 School Children; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force;
5 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task
8 Force to conduct certain public hearings; requiring the Task Force to report its
9 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
10 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
11 to the Task Force to Study the Effect of the Drug Ritalin on School Children.

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

13 That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Effect of the Drug Ritalin on School
15 Children.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following 16 members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) the State Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's
22 designee;

23 (4) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
24 designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (5) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee; and
- 2 (6) the following nine members, appointed by the Governor:
- 3 (i) one member of a local board of education;
- 4 (ii) one member of the Maryland State Teachers Association;
- 5 (iii) one member who is a licensed physician;
- 6 (iv) one member who is a licensed psychologist employed in a public
7 school;
- 8 (v) one member who is a registered nurse employed in a public
9 school;
- 10 (vi) two parents or guardians of children who take Ritalin; and
- 11 (vii) two members of the Maryland Chapter of Children and Adults
12 with Attention Deficit Disorder (CHADD).
- 13 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 14 (d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- 15 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 16 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 17 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
18 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 19 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 20 (1) study:
- 21 (i) the extent to which the recommendations of the Task Force to
22 Study the Abuses of Methylphenidate and Other Drugs On School Children have been
23 implemented;
- 24 (ii) the prevalence of the use of Ritalin among school-age children in
25 the State, including an analysis of Ritalin prescription rates from 1999 through 2014;
- 26 (iii) the effect of Ritalin on school children;

1 (iv) the process used by local school systems to recommend an
2 evaluation of a child for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and the extent to which
3 local school systems recommend children for evaluations;

4 (v) the diagnostic procedures for evaluating a child for attention
5 deficit hyperactivity disorder and prescribing Ritalin for the child;

6 (vi) the impact of the use of Ritalin by children in this State on local
7 school systems and the public health system;

8 (vii) treatment plans for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder other
9 than Ritalin, including nonpharmacological interventions; and

10 (viii) the extent to which treatment plans for attention deficit
11 hyperactivity disorder other than Ritalin are generally available and implemented; and

12 (2) make recommendations regarding:

13 (i) the process used by local school systems to recommend an
14 evaluation of a child for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder;

15 (ii) the use of treatment plans for attention deficit hyperactivity
16 disorder other than Ritalin for children in public schools, including nonpharmacological
17 interventions;

18 (iii) the impact of the use of Ritalin by children in this State on local
19 school systems and the public health system; and

20 (iv) the use of Ritalin for children in public schools.

21 (g) On or before December 31, 2015, the Task Force shall conduct two public
22 hearings in the State.

23 (h) On or before December 31, 2016, the Task Force shall report its findings and
24 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
25 Government Article, the General Assembly.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2017,
28 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
29 of no further force and effect.