

Chapter 243

(Senate Bill 1173)

AN ACT concerning

~~Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation—Adult Education—Adult High Schools~~
Task Force to Study the Adult High School Concept

FOR the purpose of ~~repealing certain provisions of law relating to the establishment and maintenance of certain schools for adults by county boards of education; requiring the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, in consultation with the State Department of Education, by regulation and on or before a certain date, to develop standards for the establishment of adult high schools; providing for the content of certain standards; prohibiting the Department from requiring public funding for approval of the establishment of adult high schools; defining a certain term; and generally relating to adult high schools and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation~~ establishing the Task Force to Study the Adult High School Concept; 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 relating to the adult high school concept; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the presiding officers of the General Assembly and certain committees of the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Adult High School Concept.

~~BY~~ repealing

~~Article—Labor and Employment
Section 11-805
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)~~

~~BY~~ adding to

~~Article—Labor and Employment
Section 11-805
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That ~~the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

~~Article—Labor and Employment~~

~~§11-805.~~

~~(a) In accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the Department, each county board of education may establish and maintain day and evening schools for adults.~~

~~(b) The purpose of these schools for adults is to provide:~~

~~(1) a general program of continuing education for the improvement of the civic, occupational, and general intelligence of adults; and~~

~~(2) programs to enable adults to make a wise use of their leisure time.~~

~~(c) A full-time student, at the student's own expense, may register for adult education courses, if space is available, and if that student secures the written permission of the superintendent of schools, or the superintendent's designee, of the county in which the student registers.}~~

~~11-805.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, "ADULT EDUCATION" MEANS ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION SERVICES BELOW THE POSTSECONDARY LEVEL FOR INDIVIDUALS:~~

~~(1) WHO ARE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD;~~

~~(2) WHO ARE NOT ENROLLED OR REQUIRED TO BE ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOL UNDER § 7-301 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE; AND~~

~~(3) WHO:~~

~~(I) ARE BASIC SKILLS DEFICIENT;~~

~~(II) DO NOT HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR ITS RECOGNIZED EQUIVALENT AND HAVE NOT ACHIEVED AN EQUIVALENT LEVEL OF EDUCATION; OR~~

~~(III) ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.~~

~~(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2016, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, BY REGULATION, DEVELOP STANDARDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADULT HIGH SCHOOLS.~~

~~(C) THE STANDARDS DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE:~~

~~(1) QUALIFICATIONS FOR A NONPROFIT WORKFORCE TRAINING PROVIDER OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROVIDER TO OPERATE AN ADULT HIGH SCHOOL;~~

~~(2) A REQUIREMENT TO USE AN ADULT EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND CURRICULUM-ALIGNED ASSESSMENTS APPROVED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;~~

~~(3) A REQUIREMENT TO AWARD A MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR A DIPLOMA AWARDED BY A NATIONAL EXTERNAL DIPLOMA PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE REQUIRED CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENTS; AND~~

~~(4) A REQUIREMENT FOR CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BEFORE APPROVAL OF AN ADULT HIGH SCHOOL.~~

~~(D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT REQUIRE PUBLIC FUNDING FOR APPROVAL OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADULT HIGH SCHOOLS.~~

(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Adult High School Concept.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following 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 Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary's designee;

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

(5) a representative of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, appointed by the Executive Director of the Council;

(6) a representative of the Job Opportunity Task Force, appointed by the Executive Director of the Task Force;

(7) a representative of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board, appointed by the Governor;

(8) a representative of the Maryland Adult Learning Advisory Council, appointed by the Chair of the Council;

(9) a representative of the Maryland Association of Adult and Community Education, appointed by the President of the Board of Directors of the Association;

(10) a representative of the Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy, appointed by the Executive Director of the Coalition;

(11) one member of the Workforce Development Committee of the Opportunity Collaborative, appointed by the cochairs of the Collaborative;

(12) one representative of a local education agency, appointed by the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of the Boards of Education;

(13) a superintendent of a local public school system in the State, appointed by the Executive Director of the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland;

(14) a representative of the Baltimore Workforce Funders Collaborative, appointed by the Director of the Collaborative;

(15) two representatives of adult education providers, appointed by the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; and

(16) a representative of a community college, appointed by the Maryland Association of Community Colleges.

(c) The chair of the Task Force shall be selected by a majority vote of the members of the Task Force.

(d) The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation and 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) study, and identify best practices with regard to, the following issues:

(i) eligibility requirements and financial stability and capacity standards for adult high school operators;

(ii) accreditation of adult high school operators, teachers, and instructors, including the appropriate accrediting agencies, standards for accreditation, and compliance and enforcement of standards;

(iii) adult high school operator reporting requirements and data collection, including effectiveness criteria that consider matriculation rates, degree attainment, types of credit, certification, and degrees awarded, alternative high school diplomas, GED, or External Diploma Program, and job placement;

(iv) matriculation requirements, including admission criteria and identification of the entity that will certify successful completion of an adult high school program, admission policy, student residency requirements, student transfers from the secondary education system, and a process for recruiting and selecting students;

(v) curriculum content and requirements, including graduation credits and requirements, identification of the curriculum development entity, programs of study, course length and intensity requirements, the appropriate provisions of adult learner and skills services and services to underserved special needs populations and English language learners, and standards for flexibility and innovation;

(vi) funding requirements and options, including various models and model sustainability, public funding options, tuition-based models, and financial aid options; and

(vii) any other issues relevant to the development of the adult high school concept as determined by the Task Force, including limits on the numbers of adult high schools, impact of wraparound services, requirements for physical student presence at school, and online services; and

(2) make recommendations regarding enabling legislation and regulations for the establishment and regulation of adult high schools.

(g) (1) On or before December 15, 2016, the Task Force shall submit an interim report on its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Economic Matters Committee of the General Assembly.

(2) On or before June 30, 2017, the Task Force shall submit a final report on its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Economic Matters Committee of the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2017, 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, April 26, 2016.