

SENATE BILL 666

F1

8lr1840

By: **Senator Robinson**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Grading Policies in Maryland Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Grading Policies in Maryland
4 Schools; 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 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
9 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;
10 defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Grading
11 Policies in Maryland Schools.

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

13 That:

14 (a) In this section, “no–zero grading policy” means a grading policy that does not
15 allow a teacher to issue a zero.

16 (b) There is a Task Force to Study Grading Policies in Maryland Schools.

17 (c) The Task Force consists of the following members:

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

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

22 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent’s
23 designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) one parent of a public school student enrolled in a public school in the
2 State, who shall be appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House and the President of the
3 Senate;

4 (5) one student who attends high school and is a member of the Student
5 Government Association, who shall be appointed by the Governor; and

6 (6) a representative from each of the following organizations, appointed by
7 the organization:

8 (i) the Maryland State Education Association;

9 (ii) the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland;

10 (iii) the Maryland Parent Teacher Association;

11 (iv) the Maryland Association of Student Councils;

12 (v) the Maryland Association of Boards of Education; and

13 (vi) the Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools.

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

15 (e) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

16 (f) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

20 (g) The Task Force shall:

21 (1) study the impact of different grading policies on student learning;

22 (2) study the impact of a no-zero grading policy on student learning;

23 (3) study the impact of a no-zero grading policy on teacher instruction;

24 (4) study any other matters relating to a no-zero grading policy that the
25 Task Force deems relevant; and

26 (5) make recommendations regarding:

27 (i) whether any curriculum changes will be needed based on the

1 findings by the Task Force;

2 (ii) whether the State should prohibit a county board of education
3 from implementing a no-zero grading policy; and

4 (iii) any other findings of the Task Force.

5 (h) On or before December 1, 2018, the Task Force shall report its findings and
6 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
7 Government Article, the General Assembly.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
9 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
10 30, 2019, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
11 abrogated and of no further force and effect.