

Chapter 496

(House Bill 1600)

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore County Anti-Bullying Task Force

FOR the purpose of establishing the Baltimore County Anti-Bullying Task Force; providing for the composition, chairs, 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 compile data, study, and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to submit preliminary and final reports of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the members of the Baltimore County delegation to the General Assembly, and certain other entities on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Baltimore County Anti-Bullying Task Force.

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

- (a) There is a Baltimore County Anti-Bullying Task Force.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

~~(1) two members of the Senate of Maryland who represent Baltimore County, one representing each of the principal political parties, appointed by the President of the Senate;~~

~~(2) two members of the House of Delegates who represent Baltimore County, one representing each of the principal political parties, appointed by the Speaker of the House;~~

~~(3)~~ (1) two members one member of the Baltimore County Board of Education, appointed by the chair of the Baltimore County Board of Education;

(2) the student member of the Baltimore County Board of Education;

~~(4)~~ (3) the Baltimore County Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;

~~(5)~~ (4) the Executive Director of the Baltimore County Public Schools Department of School Safety, or the Executive Director's designee;

~~(6)~~ (5) the Director of the Office of School Climate in the Baltimore County Public Schools Department of Academic Services, or the Director's designee; ~~and~~

~~(7) the following members appointed by the Governor on or before August 1, 2018:~~

~~(i) two representatives from the Teachers Association of Baltimore County;~~

~~(ii) one principal from a Baltimore County public high school, or the principal's designee;~~

~~(iii) one principal from a Baltimore County public middle school, or the principal's designee;~~

~~(iv) two representatives from the PTA Council of Baltimore County;~~
and

~~(v) one Baltimore County Public Schools school resource officer.~~

~~(e) The Governor shall designate two members of the General Assembly, one representing each of the two principal political parties, as cochairs of the Task Force.~~

(6) one representative of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, appointed by the Teachers Association;

(7) one elementary school principal, appointed by the Council of Administrative and Supervisory Employees;

(8) one middle school principal, appointed by the Council of Administrative and Supervisory Employees;

(9) one high school principal, appointed by the Council of Administrative and Supervisory Employees;

(10) one member of the Baltimore County Student Councils, appointed by the Baltimore County Student Councils;

(11) one school counselor from a Baltimore County elementary school, appointed by the Maryland School Counselor Association;

(12) one school counselor from a Baltimore County middle school, appointed by the Maryland School Counselor Association;

(13) one school counselor from a Baltimore County high school, appointed by the Maryland School Counselor Association;

(14) one representative from the PTA Council of Baltimore County, appointed by the PTA Council; and

(15) two Baltimore County Public Schools school resource officers, appointed by the Executive Director of the Baltimore County Public Schools Department of School Safety.

(c) The Baltimore County Board of Education member shall chair the Task Force.

(d) Baltimore County Public Schools 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) for the 2018–2019 school year, to the extent consistent with State and federal law, compile data on the number of incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation in each public school in Baltimore County and the disposition of each incident;

(2) for the 2019–2020 school year, to the extent consistent with State and federal law, compile data on the number of incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation in each public school in Baltimore County and the disposition of each incident;

(3) study current disciplinary actions for students found responsible for violations of the Baltimore County Public Schools' bullying policy ~~at the middle school and high school levels;~~

(4) study the range of possible disciplinary actions for students found responsible for violations of the Baltimore County Public Schools' bullying policy ~~at the middle school and high school levels;~~ and

(5) make recommendations regarding:

(i) whether Baltimore County Public Schools should prescribe a countywide disciplinary action for violations of the Baltimore County Public Schools' bullying policy;

(ii) whether community service should be prescribed as a possible disciplinary action for students found responsible for violations of the Baltimore County Public Schools' bullying policy;

~~(ii)~~ (iii) anti-bullying strategies and anti-bullying programming, including the development of a countywide anti-bullying campaign;

~~(iii)~~ (iv) options for victims of bullying who feel that their safety is threatened if they continue to attend their current school;

~~(iv)~~ (v) a procedure for providing immediate notification, consistent with State and federal law, to the parent of a victim of bullying or harassment and the parent of a perpetrator of an act of bullying or harassment in Baltimore County Public Schools;

~~(v)~~ (vi) a procedure for reporting to the parent of a victim of bullying the actions taken to protect the victim in Baltimore County Public Schools;

~~(vi)~~ (vii) a process for anonymous reporting by students to protect students from retaliation;

~~(vii)~~ (viii) resources that Baltimore County Public Schools should make available to students who have been the target of bullying and to parents of those students;

~~(viii)~~ (ix) electronic learning as an option for students found responsible for violations of the Baltimore County Public Schools' bullying policy and whose presence in school would be disruptive; and

~~(ix)~~ (x) any other findings of the Task Force.

(g) (1) On or before July 1, 2019, the Task Force shall submit a preliminary report of its findings on the matters listed in subsection (f)(1) of this section to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the members of the Baltimore County delegation to the General Assembly.

(2) On or before December 1, 2020, the Task Force shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations on the matters listed in subsection (f)(2) through (5) of this section to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the members of the Baltimore County delegation to the General Assembly.

(3) The Task Force additionally shall submit the reports required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection to the following local entities:

- (i) the Baltimore County Executive;
- (ii) the Baltimore County Council;
- (iii) the Baltimore County Superintendent of Schools;

- (iv) the Baltimore County Board of Education;
- (v) the Teachers Association of Baltimore County; and
- (vi) the PTA Council of Baltimore County.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2020, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2018.