

SENATE BILL 972

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CF HB 1201

By: **Senators Ellis, Benson, Carter, Feldman, Guzzone, Hayes, Klausmeier, Lee, McCray, Ready, Waldstreicher, Washington, Young, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2019

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Educational Outcomes of Pregnant and Parenting Students in**
3 **High School and GED Programs**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Educational Outcomes of Pregnant and
5 Parenting Students in High School and GED Programs; providing for the
6 composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task
7 Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of
8 certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to track and assess, identify, determine,
9 and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to
10 report its findings and recommendations to the State Board of Education and the
11 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this
12 Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Educational Outcomes of Pregnant
13 and Parenting Students in High School and GED Programs.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force on Educational Outcomes of Pregnant and Parenting
17 Students in High School and GED Programs.

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (4) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee; and
- 2 (5) one representative of the University System of Maryland, who shall:
- 3 (i) be appointed by the Chancellor of the University System of
4 Maryland; and
- 5 (ii) have research expertise in adolescent health and education.
- 6 (c) The representative of the University System of Maryland shall chair the Task
7 Force.
- 8 (d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- 9 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 10 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 11 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
12 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 13 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 14 (1) track and assess educational outcomes of pregnant and parenting
15 students in high school and GED programs through the evaluation of:
- 16 (i) data related to pregnant and parenting students seeking and
17 attaining high school diplomas and GEDs;
- 18 (ii) duration of school enrollment;
- 19 (iii) support services and programs present on school grounds,
20 including community schools, Judy Centers, pupil personnel workers, childcare services,
21 lactation accommodations, and attendance policies;
- 22 (iv) equity in curriculum and academic rigor provided to pregnant
23 and parenting students seeking high school diplomas and GEDs as compared to other
24 students seeking high school diplomas and GEDs; and
- 25 (v) factors affecting pushout and dropout rates of pregnant and
26 parenting students seeking high school diplomas and GEDs;
- 27 (2) identify best practices on:
- 28 (i) how to collect data and track educational outcomes in a manner
29 that ensures protection of the privacy and wellbeing of pregnant and parenting students;

1 (ii) how pregnant and parenting students are able to secure:

2 1. safe, affordable, and reliable childcare;

3 2. lactation accommodations; and

4 3. reliable transportation;

5 (iii) how pregnant and parenting students are informed of their
6 rights and school resources; and

7 (iv) how pregnant and parenting students access information about
8 supporting their children's learning;

9 (3) determine a method of encouraging State agencies and school
10 administrators to work collaboratively to ensure that diploma-seeking pregnant and
11 parenting students complete their education;

12 (4) make recommendations on how best to prevent school pushouts and
13 dropouts and eliminate barriers to education for pregnant and parenting students in the
14 public schools; and

15 (5) seek input from current or recently graduated pregnant and parenting
16 students to provide insight and inform policy recommendations.

17 (g) On or before June 30, 2021, the Task Force shall report its findings and
18 recommendations to the State Board of Education and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the
19 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
21 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2021,
22 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
23 of no further force and effect.