

# HOUSE BILL 59

F2, J1

(PRE-FILED)

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CF SB 147

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By: **Delegate Pena–Melnyk**

Requested: October 14, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Higher Education Students With Chronic Health Conditions**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Higher Education Students With  
4 Chronic Health Conditions; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the  
5 Task Force; prohibiting a member from receiving certain compensation, but  
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to  
7 obtain data on, study, and make recommendations regarding certain matters;  
8 authorizing the Task Force to use certain resources to carry out its duties; requiring  
9 the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the  
10 General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Maryland Department  
11 of Health and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to make the report to the  
12 Governor and the General Assembly available to the public; providing for the  
13 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Higher Education  
14 Students With Chronic Health Conditions.

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

17 (a) There is a Task Force on Higher Education Students With Chronic Health  
18 Conditions.

19 (b) The Maryland Department of Health jointly with the Maryland Higher  
20 Education Commission shall appoint members of the Task Force, including members that  
21 are:

22 (1) clinical experts;

23 (2) representatives of:

24 (i) institutions of higher education, including community colleges,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 from across the State;

2 (ii) appropriate State agencies;

3 (iii) advocacy groups;

4 (iv) the Young Invisibles; and

5 (v) the Center on Young Adult Health and Development at the  
6 University of Maryland School of Public Health;

7 (3) caregivers or parents of students with chronic health conditions  
8 enrolled in institutions of higher education;

9 (4) students with chronic health conditions enrolled in institutions of  
10 higher education; and

11 (5) representatives of any other group or entity that the Maryland  
12 Department of Health or the Maryland Higher Education Commission determines is  
13 necessary to include in order to develop the recommendations under this Act.

14 (c) The Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee, and the chairperson of  
15 the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or the chairperson's designee, shall serve as  
16 cochairs of the Task Force.

17 (d) The Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Higher Education  
18 Commission may provide staff for the Task Force.

19 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

23 (f) The Task Force shall:

24 (1) obtain and study existing data, as is publicly available, on  
25 undergraduate and graduate students with chronic health conditions at institutions of  
26 higher education in the State, including data on:

27 (i) the demographics of students with chronic health conditions;

28 (ii) the types of chronic physical, mental, and behavioral health  
29 conditions experienced by students;

30 (iii) challenges faced by students with chronic health conditions;

1 (iv) existing policies at institutions of higher education addressing  
2 the rights and needs of students with chronic health conditions; and

3 (v) available programs and resources at institutions of higher  
4 education for students with chronic health conditions; and

5 (2) make recommendations on:

6 (i) enhancing and continuing systematic data collection on students  
7 with chronic health conditions;

8 (ii) eliminating existing challenges and accommodating the needs of  
9 students with chronic health conditions to ensure they receive reasonable, effective, and  
10 appropriate higher education in the State; and

11 (iii) meeting the long-term resource demands of and the need for  
12 programs for students with chronic health conditions.

13 (g) The Task Force may use State, federal, and academic resources to carry out  
14 the Task Force's duties under subsection (f) of this section, including obtaining policies on  
15 accommodating students with chronic health conditions from institutions of higher  
16 education within the State or in other states.

17 (h) (1) On or before December 31, 2022, the Task Force shall report its findings  
18 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
19 Government Article, the General Assembly.

20 (2) The Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Higher  
21 Education Commission shall make the report submitted under this subsection available to  
22 the public.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
24 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2023,  
25 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
26 of no further force and effect.