

Chapter 551

(House Bill 79)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study the Creation of a Maryland Center for School Safety

FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Creation of a Maryland Center for School Safety; providing for the membership, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation, but authorizing reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Maryland Center for School Safety.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Creation of a Maryland Center for School Safety.

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

(4) two representatives of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, appointed by the Association;

(5) ~~four public school teachers~~ five public school educators from different geographic areas of the State, one of whom represents the Maryland State Teachers Association, three recommended appointed by the Maryland State Education Association, one recommended appointed by the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, and one appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;

(6) a school ~~psychiatrist~~ psychologist or sociologist, appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;

(7) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;

(8) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee; ~~and~~

(9) the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee; and

(10) the following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) two parents of public school students;

(ii) two public school students;

(iii) one representative from a nonpublic school;

(iv) one representative who is knowledgeable in serving students with disabilities; and

(v) one representative of school bus drivers.

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

(d) Bowie State University 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 make findings and recommendations regarding the establishment of a Maryland Center for School Safety, including the following issues:

(1) establishing a clearinghouse for information and materials concerning school safety;

(2) developing a school safety training program that includes:

(i) development of a positive school environment and protective safety measures designed to address local concerns;

- (ii) school safety courses for law enforcement officials with an emphasis on school police officers or school resource officers;
 - (iii) discussion of school safety issues with parents and community members; and
 - (iv) assistance in the review and updating of emergency preparedness plans;
- (3) preparing and disseminating information regarding best practices in creating safe and effective schools;
- (4) promoting the formation of interagency efforts to address discipline and safety issues within communities throughout the State in collaboration with postsecondary institutions and local juvenile services agencies;
- (5) developing model interagency agreements between local school systems, health departments, departments of social services, mental health agencies, and juvenile courts in order to provide cooperative services and sharing of costs for services to students who are at risk of failure in school, are at risk of participation in juvenile crime, or have been expelled from a local school system;
- (6) subject to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, collaborating with the State Department of Education to establish and maintain a statewide data collection system by which local school systems report, by gender, race, and grade level:
- (i) all incidents of violence and assault against school employees and students;
 - (ii) all incidents of possession of guns or other deadly weapons on school property or at school functions;
 - (iii) all incidents of possession or use of alcohol, prescription drugs, or controlled dangerous substances on school property or at school functions;
 - (iv) all incidents in which a student has been disciplined by the school or charged criminally for conduct occurring on school property, on school transportation, or at a school function; and
 - (v) the number of suspensions and expulsions;
- (7) analyzing data collected under paragraph (6) of this subsection;
- (8) developing security criteria that local school systems may consider in the design of new school construction;

(9) (i) developing a model safety and security audit procedure for use by local school systems that provides each school system with guidelines and a training video showing proper audit procedure;

(ii) reviewing each local school system safety and security audit and making recommendations for improvements based on the audit; and

(iii) incorporating the findings of local school system audits in a statewide report on school safety;

(10) on the request of a local school system, providing on-site technical assistance to the system for school safety and security audits; and

(11) developing and maintaining a Web site that includes:

(i) quarterly news updates related to school safety and violence prevention;

(ii) school crime data; and

(iii) schedules of school safety training.

(g) On or before July 1, 2012, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2013, 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, May 19, 2011.