

HOUSE BILL 1058

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6lr2888

By: **Delegates Platt, Carr, and Patterson**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Review the Workload of Special Educators in the State**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Review the Workload of Special
4 Educators in the State; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
6 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 review, research, and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring
8 the Task Force to develop a certain streamlined process; requiring the Task Force to
9 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly
10 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
11 relating to the Task Force to Review the Workload of Special Educators in the State.

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

13 That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Review the Workload of Special Educators in the
15 State.

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

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

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

22 (4) two representatives of the Maryland State Education Association,
23 appointed by the Executive Director of the Association;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) one representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education,
2 appointed by the Executive Director of the Association;

3 (6) one representative of the Baltimore Teachers Union, appointed by the
4 President of the Union;

5 (7) one representative of the Public School Superintendents' Association of
6 Maryland, appointed by the Executive Director of the Association;

7 (8) one representative of a group that advocates on behalf of the physically
8 disabled, appointed jointly by the executive directors of the Maryland State Education
9 Association, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, and the Public School
10 Superintendents' Association of Maryland and the President of the Baltimore Teachers
11 Union;

12 (9) one representative of a group that advocates on behalf of the mentally
13 disabled, appointed jointly by the executive director of the Maryland State Education
14 Association, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, and the Public School
15 Superintendents' Association of Maryland and the President of the Baltimore Teachers
16 Union; and

17 (10) one parent of a child who attends a public school in the State, appointed
18 by the President of the Maryland Parent Teacher Association.

19 (c) (1) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly
20 designate the chair of the Task Force.

21 (2) The vice chair shall be:

22 (i) elected by the members of the Task Force; and

23 (ii) an educator.

24 (d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

25 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

29 (f) The Task Force shall:

30 (1) survey and assess the workloads of special educators from each local
31 school system in the State;

1 (2) review and assess the concerns of special educators in the State
2 regarding their workloads;

3 (3) research and analyze best practices from other jurisdictions regarding
4 how to ensure that the workloads of special educators are manageable;

5 (4) develop a set of best practices to ensure that the workloads of special
6 educators in the State are manageable;

7 (5) research and develop a streamlined individualized education program
8 process in the State that does not run counter to the federal Individuals with Disabilities
9 Education Act; and

10 (6) make recommendations for State and local policy and legislative
11 initiatives to address the workload concerns of special educators.

12 (g) On or before December 31, 2016, the Task Force shall report its findings and
13 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
14 Government Article, the General Assembly.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
16 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2017,
17 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
18 of no further force and effect.