

HOUSE BILL 1369

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By: **Delegate Heller**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2010

Assigned to: Appropriations and Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Standardizing and Accountability of Introductory**
3 **Courses in Higher Education in Maryland**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Standardizing and
5 Accountability of Introductory Courses in Higher Education in Maryland;
6 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting
7 members of the Task Force from receiving compensation but entitling members
8 to reimbursement for expenses under certain regulations; requiring the Task
9 Force to study and make recommendations regarding the standardization and
10 accountability of introductory level courses at public institutions of higher
11 education and community colleges in the State; requiring the Task Force to
12 consult certain representatives when developing certain recommendations;
13 requiring the Task Force to submit a certain report to the Governor, the
14 Maryland Higher Education Commission, and certain committees of the
15 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of
16 this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Standardizing and
17 Accountability of Introductory Courses in Higher Education in Maryland.

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

20 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Standardizing and Accountability of
21 Introductory Courses in Higher Education in Maryland.

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

23 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
24 President of the Senate;

25 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
26 of the House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

2 (4) the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the
3 Chancellor's designee;

4 (5) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Community
5 Colleges (MACC), or the Executive Director's designee; and

6 (6) the following nine members, appointed by the Governor:

7 (i) three presidents of 4-year public institutions of higher
8 education;

9 (ii) three presidents of community colleges; and

10 (iii) three members of the public.

11 (c) In making appointments to the Task Force, the Governor shall give
12 consideration to geographic and institutional representation.

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

14 (e) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide staff for the
15 Task Force.

16 (f) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

20 (g) The Task Force shall:

21 (1) study the teaching standards, testing, and accountability of
22 credited courses that are assigned a 101, 102, 201, or 202 level number or equivalent
23 introductory level designation in public institutions of higher education and
24 community colleges in the State; and

25 (2) make recommendations on the feasibility of standardizing the
26 curriculum of basic freshman and sophomore higher education courses in order to:

27 (i) improve the transferability of credits between institutions of
28 higher education and community colleges;

29 (ii) evaluate learning outcomes based on on-campus settings
30 compared to off-campus settings, teaching in a classroom compared to teaching online,

1 faculty members compared to adjunct faculty members, daytime courses compared to
2 night and weekend courses, mean exam score per class compared to mean grade point
3 average per class, and textbooks used; and

4 (iii) lower the costs of textbooks.

5 (h) The Task Force shall consult with the following representatives while
6 developing the recommendations under subsection (g) of this section:

7 (1) academic advisers for freshman and sophomore higher education
8 students;

9 (2) textbook publishers;

10 (3) psychometric professionals with qualifications for academic
11 testing; and

12 (4) any other professionals with relevant information as determined
13 by the Task Force.

14 (i) The Task Force shall submit a report to the Governor, the Maryland
15 Higher Education Commission, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
16 Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate
17 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House Appropriations
18 Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee, on its findings and
19 recommendations on or before September 30, 2012.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 July 1, 2010. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 4 months and, at the
22 end of November 1, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
23 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.