

SENATE BILL 657

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By: **Senator Benson**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Impact of Cell Phone Use in Public Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Impact of Cell Phone Use in
4 Public Schools; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force;
5 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study, assess, and consider certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its
8 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
9 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
10 to the Task Force to Study the Impact of Cell Phone Use in Public Schools.

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Impact of Cell Phone Use in Public Schools.

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

15 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
16 the Senate;

17 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
18 House;

19 (3) one representative of the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State
20 Superintendent's designee; and

21 (4) the following members appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) a representative from the Maryland Association of Boards of
23 Education;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) a representative from the Public School Superintendents
2 Association of Maryland;

3 (iii) a representative from the Maryland Parent Teacher Association;

4 (iv) a representative from the Maryland Association of Secondary
5 School Principals;

6 (v) a representative from the Maryland Education Association;

7 (vi) two representatives from the Maryland Association of Student
8 Councils; and

9 (vii) two parents of students enrolled in public schools in the State,
10 one of whom shall be the parent of a middle school student and one of whom shall be the
11 parent of a secondary school student.

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

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

14 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

18 (f) The Task Force shall:

19 (1) study and analyze the impact of student use of cell phones in public
20 schools;

21 (2) assess the costs and benefits of student use of cell phones in public
22 schools; and

23 (3) consider any other matters relating to student use of cell phones in
24 public schools that the Task Force deems relevant.

25 (g) On or before December 1, 2016, the Task Force shall report its findings and
26 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
27 Government Article, the General Assembly.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
29 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2017,

1 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
2 of no further force and effect.