

HOUSE BILL 397

D4

(7lr1283)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Judiciary / Finance* —

Introduced by **Delegates Haddaway, Cane, Conway, Eckardt, Elmore, Mathias, Smigiel, Sossi, and Walkup**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Eastern Shore Task Force on Foster Care**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Eastern Shore Task Force on Foster Care;
4 providing for the membership, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; specifying
5 the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to submit certain reports
6 to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates;
7 prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation;
8 authorizing members of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain
9 expenses; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the
10 Eastern Shore Task Force on Foster Care.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.



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

3 (a) There is an Eastern Shore Task Force on Foster Care.

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

5 (1) two members of the House of Delegates from the Eastern Shore,
6 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

7 (2) ~~two members~~ one member of the Senate of Maryland from the
8 Eastern Shore, appointed by the President of the Senate;

9 (3) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

10 (4) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;

11 (5) ~~a director of a~~ the Director of the local department of social services
12 from ~~one each~~ of the counties on the Eastern Shore, or the Director's designee;

13 (6) ~~a staff person from each of the local departments of social services~~
14 ~~on the Eastern Shore who is responsible for the administration of the foster care~~
15 ~~program~~ one representative from the Business Economic and Community Outreach
16 Network unit of the Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University;

17 (7) a director of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
18 organization of the Eastern Shore or the director's designee; and

19 ~~(7)~~ (8) two foster care parents from the Eastern Shore, appointed by the
20 Governor.

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

22 (d) The Department of Human Resources shall provide staff for the Task
23 Force.

24 (e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation as a member
25 of the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
26 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

27 (f) The Task Force shall:

1 (1) consider incentives that will enhance recruitment and retention of
2 foster care parents on the Eastern Shore including tax incentives, benefits packages
3 such as health care, and the criteria for eligibility for these incentives;

4 (2) consider hiring of a permanent staff person in each local
5 department of social services whose role shall be recruitment, retention, and support
6 for foster care parents and consider potential funding sources for the positions; and

7 (3) make recommendations on improving the recruitment and
8 retention of foster care parents on the Eastern Shore.

9 (g) (1) On or before December 31, 2007, the Task Force shall submit an
10 interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance
11 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

12 (2) The Task Force shall submit a final report of its findings and
13 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
14 Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2008.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 July 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June
17 30, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
18 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.