

HOUSE BILL 397

D4

71r1283

By: **Delegates Haddaway, Cane, Conway, Eckardt, Elmore, Mathias, Smigiel, Sossi, and Walkup**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

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.

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

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

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

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

17 (2) two members of the Senate of Maryland from the Eastern Shore,
18 appointed by the President of the Senate;

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

4 (6) a staff person from each of the local departments of social services
5 on the Eastern Shore who is responsible for the administration of the foster care
6 program; and

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

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

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

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

15 (f) The Task Force shall:

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

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

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

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

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

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June
3 30, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
4 abrogated and of no further force and effect.