

HOUSE BILL 570

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By: **Delegates Rosenberg, Barve, and James**
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2007
Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Incentives for Teen Parents**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Incentives for Teen Parents;
4 providing for the membership of the Task Force; requiring the Department of
5 Human Resources to provide staff for the Task Force; providing for the duties of
6 the Task Force; prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving certain
7 compensation; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor, the Senate
8 Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the Joint
9 Committee on Welfare Reform; providing for the termination of this Act; and
10 generally relating to the Task Force to Study Incentives for Teen Parents.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Incentives for Teen Parents.

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

15 (1) The Executive Director of the Department of Human Resources'
16 Family Investment Program;

17 (2) The Director of the Governor's Office for Children;

18 (3) A representative from the Department of Human Resources' Social
19 Services Administration, designated by the Secretary;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) A representative from the Maryland State Department of
2 Education, designated by the State Superintendent;

3 (5) A representative from the Department of Health and Mental
4 Hygiene, with knowledge of Medicaid, designated by the Secretary;

5 (6) A representative from the Department of Juvenile Services,
6 designated by the Secretary;

7 (7) Three representatives from Welfare Advocates and other groups
8 that advocate for children, youth, and families; and

9 (8) Two Family Investment Program recipients.

10 (c) The Executive Director of the Family Investment Program shall appoint
11 the nondesignated members of the Task Force.

12 (d) The Executive Director of the Family Investment Program shall be the
13 chair of the Task Force.

14 (e) The Department of Human Resources shall provide staff for the Task
15 Force.

16 (f) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation as a member
17 of the Task Force but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
18 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

19 (g) The Task Force shall:

20 (1) Consider the feasibility of establishing a program to provide
21 financial incentives for teen parents receiving welfare benefits to stay in school, and
22 shall consider including the following items in the design of a program:

23 (i) Increasing or decreasing welfare benefit payments based on
24 school attendance;

25 (ii) The amount of an increase or decrease in welfare benefit
26 payments; and

27 (iii) Measures for determining increasing or decreasing welfare
28 benefit payments including staying in school, school attendance, high school
29 achievement, grades, and graduation or obtaining a GED;

1 (2) As part of a program, consider mandating ancillary services
2 including requiring:

3 (i) Doctor visits for teens and prenatal visits for pregnant teens;
4 and

5 (ii) Child immunizations;

6 (3) Develop short- and long-term outcome measures, including
7 staying in school, school completion, and time spent on welfare, in order to effectively
8 evaluate the program;

9 (4) Consider targeting the program toward high-risk populations
10 already in contact with the State social services' systems, including teen parents,
11 pregnant teenagers, foster care youth, and youth in State care; and

12 (5) In developing a program, review programs in other states
13 including "Learnfare" programs established in Ohio and California.

14 (h) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations by
15 November 1, 2007, to the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
16 Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations
17 Committee, and the Joint Committee on Welfare Reform.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 July 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
20 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
21 abrogated and of no further force and effect.