

CHAPTER 400

(House Bill 397)

AN ACT concerning

Eastern Shore Task Force on Foster Care

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

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

- (a) There is an Eastern Shore Task Force on Foster Care.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:
 - (1) two members of the House of Delegates from the Eastern Shore, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
 - (2) ~~two members~~ one member of the Senate of Maryland from the Eastern Shore, appointed by the President of the Senate;
 - (3) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (4) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;
 - (5) ~~a director of a~~ the Director of the local department of social services from ~~one each~~ of the counties on the Eastern Shore, or the Director's designee;
 - (6) ~~a staff person from each of the local departments of social services on the Eastern Shore who is responsible for the administration of the foster care program~~ one representative from the Business Economic and Community Outreach Network unit of the Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University;

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

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

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

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

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

(f) The Task Force shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2007.