

HOUSE BILL 1099

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8lr2785

By: **Delegates Tarrant, Hubbard, Kullen, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Reznik, Stukes, and V. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2008

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Increase the Enrollment of Students in Medicaid and the**
3 **Maryland Children's Health Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Increase the Enrollment of
5 Students in Medicaid and the Maryland Children's Health Program; providing
6 for the membership of the Task Force; authorizing the Task Force to consult
7 with certain individuals and entities in performing its duties; requiring the
8 Task Force to make certain recommendations; requiring the State Department
9 of Education to provide staff support to the Task Force; providing that members
10 of the Task Force are entitled to a certain reimbursement; providing for the
11 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Increase the
12 Enrollment of Students in Medicaid and the Maryland Children's Health
13 Program.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Education

16 Section 7–429

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Education**

22 **7–429.**

23 **(A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO INCREASE THE ENROLLMENT OF**
24 **STUDENTS IN MEDICAID AND THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

2 **(1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED**
3 **BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

4 **(2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED**
5 **BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

6 **(3) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT, OR THE STATE**
7 **SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

8 **(4) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, OR THE**
9 **SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

10 **(5) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES, OR THE**
11 **SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE; AND**

12 **(6) THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED BY THE**
13 **GOVERNOR:**

14 **(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF BALTIMORE HEALTH CARE**
15 **ACCESS; AND**

16 **(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE**
17 **ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION.**

18 **(C) IN PERFORMING ITS DUTIES, THE TASK FORCE MAY CONSULT WITH**
19 **INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES THAT THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT CONSIDERS**
20 **APPROPRIATE.**

21 **(D) (1) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT, OR THE STATE**
22 **SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE SHALL:**

23 **(I) CHAIR THE TASK FORCE; AND**

24 **(II) PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE TASK FORCE FROM**
25 **THE DEPARTMENT.**

26 **(2) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO**
27 **THE TASK FORCE SHALL REASONABLY REFLECT THE GEOGRAPHIC, RACIAL,**
28 **ETHNIC, CULTURAL, AND GENDER DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.**

29 **(3) IN PERFORMING ITS DUTIES, THE TASK FORCE SHALL INVITE**
30 **ALL INTERESTED GROUPS TO PRESENT TESTIMONY OR OTHER INFORMATION TO**

1 THE TASK FORCE CONCERNING THE ISSUES TO BE STUDIED BY THE TASK
2 FORCE.

3 (E) (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY STRATEGIES TO MONITOR
4 AND ENSURE THAT ANY STUDENT IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR
5 MEDICAID OR THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM IS ENROLLED
6 IN THE APPROPRIATE PROGRAM.

7 (2) THE TASK FORCE MAY CONSIDER STRATEGIES THAT
8 INCLUDE:

9 (I) A SINGLE APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT IN A FREE
10 AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS PROGRAM IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL, MEDICAID, AND
11 THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM;

12 (II) REQUIRING A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO MAIL AN
13 APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT IN MEDICAID OR THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S
14 HEALTH PROGRAM TO THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT WHO IS
15 ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS PROGRAM IN A PUBLIC
16 SCHOOL; AND

17 (III) REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
18 MENTAL HYGIENE TO REPORT TO A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT THE NAMES
19 OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS
20 PROGRAM IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL, BUT WHO ARE NOT ENROLLED IN MEDICAID OR
21 THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM, TO ENABLE THE LOCAL
22 HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO ENGAGE IN OUTREACH TO THE PARENTS OR
23 GUARDIANS OF THOSE CHILDREN.

24 (F) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION
25 AS A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR
26 EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED
27 IN THE STATE BUDGET.

28 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON
29 STRATEGIES TO INCREASE THE ENROLLMENT OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS IN
30 MEDICAID AND THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM.

31 (H) THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND
32 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE
33 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ON OR BEFORE JULY
34 1, 2009.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,
3 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
4 abrogated and of no further force and effect.