

HOUSE BILL 1533

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By: **Delegates Nathan–Pulliam, Benson, Burns, Carter, Harrison, Jones, Oaks, Robinson, Stukes, and Tarrant**

Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2008

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Health Disparities Among Minority Children with**
3 **Learning Disabilities**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Health Disparities Among
5 Minority Children with Learning Disabilities; specifying the membership and
6 the staff of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to study certain issues;
7 requiring the Task Force to make certain reports; providing for the termination
8 of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of the Task Force to
9 Study Health Disparities Among Minority Children with Learning Disabilities.

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

12 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Health Disparities Among Minority
13 Children with Learning Disabilities.

14 (b) The Task Force consists of the following 15 members:

15 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
16 of the Senate;

17 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
18 the House;

19 (3) two representatives of the Maryland Office of Minority Health and
20 Health Disparities, appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

21 (4) the following 11 members, appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) one representative of the Maryland Disability Law Center;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) one representative of the Hopkins Center for Health
2 Disparities Solutions;

3 (iii) one representative of the National Center for Health
4 Behavior Change at Morgan State University;

5 (iv) two representatives of Morgan State University with
6 expertise regarding health disparities and their effect on learning disabled adults;

7 (v) two neurologists with expertise in attention
8 deficit/hyperactivity disorder and other learning disabilities;

9 (vi) two parents of adolescent children with attention
10 deficit/hyperactivity disorder or another learning disability; and

11 (vii) two adults with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

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

13 (d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the
14 Task Force.

15 (e) A member of the Task Force:

16 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

17 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
18 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

19 (f) The Task Force shall study:

20 (1) the extent and nature of health disparities among minority
21 children, including African Americans, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and
22 American Indians, with documented learning disabilities;

23 (2) the causes of health disparities among minority children with
24 documented learning disabilities and how to eliminate them;

25 (3) how to improve access to and delivery of services to minority
26 children with documented learning disabilities;

27 (4) the extent of compliance of service providers to minority children
28 with documented learning disabilities with the provisions of the federal Americans
29 with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12102; and

30 (5) any other matter the Task Force deems relevant to the study of
31 health disparities among children with documented learning disabilities and

1 compliance of service providers with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of
2 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12102.

3 (g) On or before December 31, 2008, the Task Force shall report its findings
4 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
5 Government Article, the General Assembly.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
8 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
9 abrogated and of no further force and effect.