

HOUSE BILL 1061

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By: **Delegates A. Washington, Ebersole, Sanchez, Tarlau, M. Washington, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2017

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Emergency and Evacuation Plans for Students, Staff, and**
3 **Visitors With Disabilities in Public School Facilities**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Emergency and Evacuation Plans
5 for Students, Staff, and Visitors With Disabilities in Public School Facilities;
6 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a
7 member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
8 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make
9 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the State Department of
10 Education to brief the Task Force on certain emergency planning guidelines and
11 certain procedures for including accommodations for certain students on or before a
12 certain date; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to
13 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
14 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Emergency
15 and Evacuation Plans for Students, Staff, and Visitors With Disabilities in Public
16 School Facilities.

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

19 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Emergency and Evacuation Plans for Students,
20 Staff, and Visitors With Disabilities in Public School Facilities.

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

22 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
23 the Senate;

24 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
25 House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
2 designee;

3 (4) the President of the State Board of Education, or the President's
4 designee;

5 (5) the President of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, or
6 the President's designee;

7 (6) the Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee;

8 (7) the State Fire Marshal, or the Fire Marshal's designee;

9 (8) the Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, or
10 the Executive Director's designee;

11 (9) the Agency Equity Officer for the Maryland State Department of
12 Education, or the Agency Equity Officer's designee;

13 (10) the President of the Maryland Association of Student Councils, or the
14 President's designee;

15 (11) the President of the Maryland Association of Elementary School
16 Principals, or the President's designee;

17 (12) the President of the Maryland Association of Secondary School
18 Principals, or the President's designee;

19 (13) the President of the Maryland Association of Secondary School
20 Principals, or the President's designee; and

21 (14) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) one representative of the Special Education and Early
23 Intervention Division of the State Department of Education;

24 (ii) one representative of the School Health Services Division of the
25 State Department of Education;

26 (iii) one representative of the Division of Student, Family, and School
27 Support of the State Department of Education;

28 (iv) one representative of the School Facilities Branch of the State
29 Department of Education;

(v) one representative of the State Emergency Operations Center of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency;

(vi) one representative of the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center of the Maryland State Police;

(vii) one parent of a student with a disability who attends an elementary school;

(viii) one parent of a student with a disability who attends a middle school;

(ix) one parent of a student with a disability who attends a high school;

(x) one student with a disability who attends high school;

(xi) one student who attends high school who has a sibling with a disability;

(xii) one staff member with a disability who works at a school facility;

(xiii) one faculty member with a disability who works at a school facility; and

(xiv) a representative of the Arc Maryland.

(c) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's designee, shall be the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) study:

(i) the current local school system emergency plans developed in accordance with the criteria specified in the Maryland State Department of Education Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools (COMAR

1 13A.02.02.03) to determine if the emergency plans effectively accommodate and safeguard
2 students, staff, and visitors with disabilities who use public school facilities;

3 (ii) national best practices for accommodating and safeguarding
4 students, staff, and visitors with disabilities who use public school buildings;

5 (iii) national best practices for the systematic and uniform review of
6 school emergency plans;

7 (iv) national best practices for engaging school health services in
8 formulating school plans for students with disabilities; and

9 (v) national best practices for the inclusion of an individualized
10 evacuation/emergency plan in the individualized education program of a student and the
11 annual review of the plan by the individualized education program team in the school; and

12 (2) make recommendations regarding:

13 (i) revisions to the Maryland State Department of Education
14 Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools to ensure that:

15 1. Maryland is in compliance with national best practices for
16 accommodating and safeguarding students, staff, and visitors with disabilities who use
17 public school buildings; and

18 2. students, staff, and visitors with disabilities who use
19 public school facilities are effectively accommodated and safeguarded during emergencies;

20 (ii) the adoption of regulations that require a student's
21 individualized education program to include accommodations for the student during an
22 emergency; and

23 (iii) any other findings of the Task Force.

24 (g) On or before October 1, 2017, the State Department of Education shall brief
25 the Task Force on:

26 (1) the current Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems
27 and Schools and the current school emergency plan in each local school system; and

28 (2) the current procedures for including accommodations for a student
29 during an emergency in a student's individualized education program.

30 (h) On or before January 1, 2018, the Task Force shall report its findings and
31 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
32 Government Article, the General Assembly.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2018,
3 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
4 of no further force and effect.