

SENATE BILL 639

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CF 6lr3124

By: **Senators Guzzone, King, Madaleno, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study a Promise Scholarship Program in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study a Promise Scholarship Program
4 in Maryland; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force;
5 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task
8 Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
9 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and
10 generally relating to the Task Force to Study a Promise Scholarship Program in
11 Maryland.

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

13 That:

- 14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study a Promise Scholarship Program in Maryland.
- 15 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:
- 16 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
17 the Senate;
- 18 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;
- 20 (3) the Governor, or the Governor's designee;
- 21 (4) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;
- 22 (5) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (6) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;

2 (7) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Community
3 Colleges, or the Executive Director's designee; and

4 (8) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

5 (i) two presidents of a community college;

6 (ii) two members of a board of trustees of a community college;

7 (iii) two students who attend community college; and

8 (iv) two representatives of college access and affordability nonprofit
9 organizations.

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

11 (d) The Maryland Higher Education Commission, in conjunction with the
12 Maryland Association of Community Colleges, shall provide staff for the Task Force.

13 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

17 (f) The Task Force shall:

18 (1) study the feasibility of creating a Promise Scholarship Program to
19 provide scholarships to pay for tuition and mandatory fees not covered by federal or State
20 financial aid for graduates of public high schools in the State who enroll in community
21 colleges in the State; and

22 (2) make recommendations regarding:

23 (i) the feasibility of creating a Promise Scholarship Program;

24 (ii) academic and financial eligibility requirements for a Promise
25 Scholarship Program;

26 (iii) funding sources for a Promise Scholarship Program; and

27 (iv) academic and social supports to help students succeed in a
28 Promise Scholarship Program.

1 (g) On or before January 1, 2017, the Task Force shall report its findings and
2 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
3 Government Article, the General Assembly.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
5 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2017, with
6 no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no
7 further force and effect.