

HOUSE BILL 838

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4lr2367

By: **Delegate James**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2014

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Vocational and Technical Education Programs in**
3 **Harford County**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Vocational and Technical
5 Education Programs in Harford County; providing for the composition, chair,
6 and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from
7 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain
8 expenses; requiring the Task Force, in consultation with a certain committee, to
9 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the
10 Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the
11 Harford County Executive, the Harford County Board of Education, and the
12 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of
13 this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Vocational and
14 Technical Education Programs in Harford County.

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, The Harford Technical High School, which has served since 1978 as
17 the “Home of Academic & Technical Excellence”, has a mission to ensure that every
18 student will become a productive, responsible citizen while achieving mastery of
19 academic, technical, and life skills; and

20 WHEREAS, The Harford Technical High School offers a rigorous menu of
21 academic course work along with 18 State-approved Career and Technology
22 Programs; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, The Harford Technical High School offers work-based learning
 2 opportunities to eligible juniors and seniors, in their respective areas of career and
 3 technical study, which allows students to earn an income while earning credits toward
 4 graduation and gaining valuable career experience and industry contacts; and

5 WHEREAS, Annually, the number of applications the Harford Technical High
 6 School receives consistently exceeds the capacity of the school, resulting in numerous
 7 qualified applicants not being accepted for admission each year; and

8 WHEREAS, Efforts have been made to duplicate vocational and technical
 9 education programs in other high schools in Harford County; and

10 WHEREAS, Even with the success of Harford Technical High School and the
 11 duplication of some vocational and technical programs in other high schools, it is likely
 12 that a great need for additional vocational and technical education programs still
 13 exists because of the great demand for skilled workers in numerous industries and
 14 trades in Harford County; and

15 WHEREAS, Harford County Public Schools has recently formed a committee to
 16 review the program offerings at Harford Technical High School; however, there is a
 17 need for a broad-based forum, with participation from many stakeholders, to examine
 18 the vocational and technical education programs offered in Harford County, explore
 19 options to expand the capacity of the programs, and ensure that the programs remain
 20 current with the demands of the economy and relevant to current and potential future
 21 employers; now, therefore,

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

24 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Vocational and Technical Education
 25 Programs in Harford County.

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

27 ~~(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President~~
 28 ~~of the Senate;~~

29 ~~(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of~~
 30 ~~the House;~~

31 ~~(3)~~ (1) the Superintendent of Schools of Harford County, or the
 32 Superintendent's designee;

33 ~~(4)~~ (2) the President of the Harford County Board of Education, or
 34 the President's designee;

1 ~~(5)~~ (3) the County Executive of Harford County, or the County
2 Executive's designee;

3 ~~(6)~~ (4) the President of the Harford County Council, or the
4 President's designee;

5 ~~(7)~~ (5) the President of Harford Community College, or the
6 President's designee;

7 ~~(8)~~ (6) a representative from one of the four magnet programs in
8 Harford County, appointed by the Superintendent of Schools of Harford County;

9 ~~(9)~~ (7) one staff member of the Maryland State Department of
10 Education, appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;

11 ~~(10)~~ (8) the President of the Harford County Education Association,
12 or the President's designee;

13 ~~(11)~~ (9) the President of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce,
14 or the President's designee;

15 ~~(12)~~ (10) the President of the Route 40 Business Association, or the
16 President's designee;

17 ~~(13)~~ (11) the President of the Board of Directors of the Army Alliance,
18 or the President's designee; and

19 ~~(14)~~ (12) the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Northeast
20 Maryland Technology Council, or the Chair's designee.

21 (c) The members of the Task Force shall designate the chair from among the
22 members of the Task Force.

23 (d) The Harford County Board of Education shall provide staff for the Task
24 Force.

25 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

29 (f) The Task Force, in consultation with the Harford County Public Schools
30 committee charged with reviewing the program offerings at Harford Technical High
31 School, shall:

1 (1) examine the current capacity of vocational and technical education
2 programs at Harford Technical High School and programs at other high schools in
3 Harford County;

4 (2) evaluate how much additional capacity is necessary in vocational
5 and technical education programs in Harford County;

6 (3) explore potential options to address the need for additional
7 capacity in vocational and technical education programs in Harford County, including
8 an option to establish a second vocational and technical high school in the county;

9 (4) study the vocational and technical education programs at other
10 vocational and technical high schools in the State;

11 (5) evaluate whether the vocational and technical education programs
12 offered in Harford County are current with the demands of the economy and relevant
13 to current and potential future employers;

14 (6) examine the transportation needs of students in vocational and
15 technical education programs; and

16 (7) make recommendations regarding:

17 (i) the additional capacity that is necessary in vocational and
18 technical education programs in Harford County;

19 (ii) options to address the additional capacity needs; and

20 (iii) the appropriate vocational and technical education programs
21 necessary to remain current with the demands of the economy and relevant to current
22 and potential future employers.

23 (g) On or before December 1, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings
24 and recommendations to the Governor, the Harford County Executive, the Harford
25 County Council, the Harford County Board of Education, and, in accordance with §
26 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
29 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
30 abrogated and of no further force and effect.