

HOUSE BILL 912

E3, F1

5lr0725

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2015

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County Juvenile Court and School Safety Workgroup**

3 **PG 314-15**

4 FOR the purpose of reestablishing the Prince George's County Juvenile Court and School
5 Safety Workgroup; providing for the composition, cochairs, and staffing of the
6 Workgroup; prohibiting a member of the Workgroup from receiving certain
7 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; establishing
8 the duties of the Workgroup; requiring the Workgroup to report its findings, action
9 plan, and recommendations to the Prince George's County Delegation on or before a
10 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the
11 Prince George's County Juvenile Court and School Safety Workgroup.

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

14 (a) There is a Prince George's County Juvenile Court and School Safety
15 Workgroup.

16 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

17 (1) the Chair of the Prince George's County Delegation to the House of
18 Delegates, or the Chair's designee;

19 (2) the Chair of the Prince George's County Delegation to the Senate, or
20 the Chair's designee;

21 (3) the Chair of the Prince George's County Council, or the Chair's
22 designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



HOUSE BILL 912

1 (4) a representative from the Prince George's County Police Department,
2 appointed by the Prince George's County Chief of Police;

3 (5) a representative from Prince George's County Public Schools, appointed
4 by the Superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools;

5 (6) a representative from the Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff,
6 appointed by the Sheriff of Prince George's County;

7 (7) a representative from the Department of Juvenile Services appointed
8 to the Prince George's County region, appointed by the Secretary of Juvenile Services;

9 (8) a representative from the Office of the Public Defender serving District
10 5 who works in the Juvenile Protection Division, appointed by the District Public Defender;

11 (9) a representative from the Office of the State's Attorney for Prince
12 George's County who works in the Juvenile Division, appointed by the Prince George's
13 County State's Attorney;

14 (10) a member of the Prince George's County School Board, appointed by the
15 chair of the School Board;

16 (11) a school psychologist working in Prince George's County, appointed by
17 the President of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association;

18 (12) the Director of Security Services for Prince George's County Public
19 Schools; and

20 (13) two members appointed by the Prince George's County Executive.

21 (c) The Prince George's County Executive shall designate two cochairs of the
22 Workgroup.

23 (d) The Department of Juvenile Services shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

24 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

25 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

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

28 (f) The Workgroup shall:

29 (1) review and analyze school arrest and referral data collected by the
30 Department of Juvenile Services and the Prince George's County school system and, based

1 on that data, identify the most common offenses for which students are arrested and
2 referred to juvenile court;

3 (2) recommend interagency policies to reduce the number of
4 school-based arrests and referrals for certain misdemeanor offenses to the Department of
5 Juvenile Services and the juvenile court by diverting more youth to school- and
6 community-based programs, with the goal to decrease the overrepresentation of African
7 American youth in the juvenile justice system;

8 (3) recommend strategies to utilize more fully current resources and
9 expand school- and community-based support services for youth who exhibit behavior
10 problems in school;

11 (4) recommend a criteria-based, decision making process for referring
12 students to school- or community-based programs and services instead of to the juvenile
13 justice system for misdemeanor-type delinquent acts involving offenses identified by the
14 Workgroup;

15 (5) recommend criteria for diversion programs developed for juveniles who
16 have been charged with less serious delinquent acts and who the juvenile court believes
17 would benefit from community alternatives in lieu of probation or commitment to the
18 Department of Juvenile Services;

19 (6) develop recommendations on other relevant issues determined by the
20 Workgroup to warrant further review, study, or change; and

21 (7) develop a Collaborative Action Plan to reduce the number of
22 school-based arrests and referrals to the juvenile court.

23 (g) On or before December 15, 2015, the Workgroup shall report its findings,
24 action plan, and recommendations to the Prince George's County Delegation.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
26 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 7 months and, at the end of
27 December 31, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
28 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.