

Bill No.: _____
Requested: _____
Committee: _____

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Stored - 11/23/09
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By: **Delegate Pena-Melnyk**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Incorporate the Principles of Universal Design for Learning**
3 **into the Policies, Practices, and Curriculum of the Education Systems in**
4 **Maryland**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Incorporate the Principles of
6 Universal Design for Learning into the Policies, Practices, and Curriculum of
7 the Education Systems in Maryland; providing for the membership, purposes,
8 and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from
9 receiving compensation but entitling members to certain reimbursement for
10 certain expenses under certain regulations in the State budget; requiring the
11 Task Force to study and make certain recommendations on how to incorporate
12 and apply the principles of Universal Design for Learning into the policies,
13 practices, and curriculum of the education systems in Maryland; requiring the
14 Task Force to submit a report to the State Board of Education and certain
15 committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for
16 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to
17 Incorporate the Principles of Universal Design for Learning into the Policies,
18 Practices, and Curriculum of the Education Systems in Maryland.

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 MARYLAND, That:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) There is a Task Force to Incorporate the Principles of Universal Design
2 for Learning into the Policies, Practices, and Curriculum of the Education Systems in
3 Maryland.

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

5 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
6 of the Senate;

7 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
8 the House;

9 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
10 designee;

11 (4) one member of the State Board of Education, appointed by the
12 President of the State Board;

13 (5) three representatives of the State Department of Education from
14 different divisions, each appointed by the Assistant State Superintendent of the
15 represented division, of whom:

16 (i) one representative shall be from the Division of Special
17 Education and Early Intervention Services;

18 (ii) one representative shall be from the Division of Instruction;
19 and

20 (iii) one representative shall be from the Division of Assessments
21 and Accountability;

22 (6) one county superintendent, appointed by the Public School
23 Superintendents Association of Maryland;

24 (7) one county board of education member, appointed by the Maryland
25 Association of Boards of Education;

1 (8) three public school teachers who teach in the State in different
2 grade spans, appointed by the Maryland State Education Association, of whom:

3 (i) one teacher shall be a general educator;

4 (ii) one teacher shall be certified in special education; and

5 (iii) one teacher shall be certified in instruction to students with
6 limited English proficiency;

7 (9) one member of the Institute for Higher Education Policy, appointed
8 by the Chair of the Maryland Higher Education Commission; and

9 (10) the following five members appointed by the Governor:

10 (i) one representative of the Maryland Down Syndrome
11 Advocacy Coalition;

12 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Parent Teacher
13 Association;

14 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Disability Law Center;

15 (iv) one representative from an organization representing school
16 children who have limited English proficiency; and

17 (v) one representative who has expertise in Universal Design
18 for Learning.

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

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

21 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

3 (f) The Task Force shall:

4 (1) define "Universal Design for Learning" as a scientifically valid
5 framework for guiding curriculum design including goals, teaching methods,
6 instructional materials, and assessments, to:

7 (i) provide flexibility in the ways:

- 8 1. information is presented;
- 9 2. students respond or demonstrate knowledge and
10 skills; and
- 11 3. students are engaged; and

12 (ii) reduce barriers in instruction and provide appropriate
13 accommodations, supports, and challenges while maintaining high achievement
14 expectations for all students, including students with disabilities and students with
15 limited English proficiency;

16 (2) study how to:

17 (i) incorporate and apply the principles of Universal Design for
18 Learning into the policies, practices, and curriculum of the elementary, secondary, and
19 postsecondary and higher education systems in Maryland with respect to:

- 20 1. curriculum development;
- 21 2. the evaluation, selection, and design of textbooks and
22 other instructional materials;
- 23 3. the purchase and use of technology for instructional
24 purposes;
- 25 4. teacher preparation and staff development;

1 5. the development of classroom, district, and statewide
2 assessments; and

3 6. State grants; and

4 (ii) evaluate the implementation of the incorporation and
5 application of Universal Design for Learning principles and the effect on student
6 outcomes;

7 (3) make recommendations for the minimum standards to be used by
8 county boards of education in the development of local school system policies and
9 procedures incorporating the principles of Universal Design for Learning; and

10 (4) draft and recommend proposed regulations incorporating the
11 findings of the Task Force under item (2) of this subsection.

12 (g) On or before June 30, 2011, the Task Force shall report its findings and
13 recommendations to the State Board of Education and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of
14 the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental
15 Affairs Committee and the Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Committee
16 on Ways and Means and the Health and Government Operations Committee.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 July 1, 2010. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
19 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
20 abrogated and of no further force and effect.