

# SENATE BILL 244

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By: **Senators Robinson, Conway, Currie, McFadden, Nathan–Pulliam, and Smith**  
Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2017  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Suspension Rates of African American Prekindergarten**  
3 **Students**

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

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Suspension Rates of African American  
16 Prekindergarten Students.

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

18 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
19 the Senate;

20 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
21 House;

22 (3) two members of the Legislative Black Caucus, appointed by the Chair  
23 of the Legislative Black Caucus;

24 (4) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs, or the  
2 Special Secretary's designee;

3 (6) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's  
4 designee;

5 (7) one representative of the State Board of Education, appointed by the  
6 State Board;

7 (8) one representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education,  
8 appointed by the Governor;

9 (9) one representative of the Public School Superintendents Association of  
10 Maryland, appointed by the Governor;

11 (10) one representative of Advocates for Children and Youth, appointed by  
12 the Governor;

13 (11) one representative of the Anne Arundel County Branch of the NAACP,  
14 appointed by the Branch President;

15 (12) one representative of the Baltimore City Branch of the NAACP,  
16 appointed by the Branch President; and

17 (13) one representative of the Prince George's County Branch of the NAACP,  
18 appointed by the Branch President.

19 (c) The State Superintendent 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

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

25 (f) The Task Force shall:

26 (1) study the suspension rates of prekindergarten students in public  
27 schools;

28 (2) determine whether African American prekindergarten students are  
29 suspended at higher rates than students of other races and the reasons for the suspensions;

1           (3) determine the resources available to remedy suspensions of African  
2 American prekindergarten students, including the availability of special education needs  
3 teachers in public schools; and

4           (4) make recommendations to deter suspensions of African American  
5 prekindergarten students.

6           (g) On or before December 1, 2018, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
7 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
8 Government Article, the General Assembly.

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
10 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2019,  
11 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and  
12 of no further force and effect.