

SENATE BILL 925

E1, E4

4lr2823

By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Computer Crimes Against Children and Child**
3 **Pornography Crimes in Maryland**

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

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Computer Crimes Against Children and
17 Child Pornography Crimes in Maryland.

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

19 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
20 President of the Senate;

21 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
22 of the House;

23 (3) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control
2 and Prevention, or the Executive Director's designee; and

3 (5) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

4 (i) two representatives of the Maryland Internet Crimes
5 Against Children Task Force;

6 (ii) two representatives of Child Advocacy Centers in the
7 Maryland Children's Alliance;

8 (iii) one representative of the judiciary;

9 (iv) two representatives of local sheriff departments;

10 (v) two educators; and

11 (vi) one representative of a State Attorney's office.

12 (c) (1) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall
13 jointly designate the chair of the Task Force.

14 (2) The Task Force may establish subcommittees as necessary to fulfill
15 the duties of the Task Force.

16 (d) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide staff
17 for the Task Force.

18 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

22 (f) (1) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations with
23 regard to:

24 (i) the effectiveness of State laws, policies, and practices
25 relating to Internet crimes against children and child pornography;

26 (ii) the availability of resources needed to address Internet
27 crimes against children and child pornography;

28 (iii) the availability of public education to inform parents,
29 teachers, and children about Internet safety and victimization prevention;

1 (iv) providing a comprehensive, multi–agency response to the
2 issues of Internet crimes against children and child pornography, including how to
3 identify, investigate, apprehend, and successfully prosecute offenders who use the
4 Internet, online communications systems, and other technologies to sexually exploit
5 children; and

6 (v) the role that Child Advocacy Centers in Maryland can be
7 given in the investigation and prosecution of child pornography cases and the
8 intervention on behalf of child computer crime victims.

9 (2) In studying and making recommendations, the Task Force shall
10 consider:

11 (i) the best practices in the field; and

12 (ii) the costs and benefits of existing procedures and
13 recommended changes.

14 (g) (1) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall report its
15 preliminary findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
16 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

17 (2) On or before December 31, 2015, the Task Force shall report its
18 final findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246
19 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of
22 September 30, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
23 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.