

HOUSE BILL 1621

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CF SB 1033

By: **Delegates R. Watson, D. Barnes, Harrison, and Proctor**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2020

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Bowie State University Law School**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Bowie State
4 University Law School; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
6 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of establishing a Bowie
8 State University Law School; requiring the Task Force to retain, as necessary,
9 certain consultants in order to complete the study; requiring the Governor to include
10 a certain appropriation in the State budget to Bowie State University for conducting
11 the study; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to
12 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
13 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the
14 Feasibility of a Bowie State University Law School.

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

17 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Bowie State University Law
18 School.

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

20 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
21 the Senate;

22 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
23 House;

24 (3) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) one representative from the University System of Maryland, appointed
2 by the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland;

3 (5) one representative of Bowie State University, appointed by the
4 President of Bowie State University;

5 (6) the President of the Maryland State Bar Association, or the President's
6 designee;

7 (7) the President of the Prince George's County Bar Association, or the
8 President's designee; and

9 (8) the President of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, or the
10 President's designee.

11 (c) The Task Force shall elect a chair from among its members.

12 (d) Bowie State University shall provide staff for the Task Force.

13 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

17 (f) The Task Force shall:

18 (1) study the feasibility of establishing and operating a Bowie State
19 University Law School in Prince George's County, including:

20 (i) the legal feasibility, including examining the statutory and
21 regulatory requirements for establishing a law school and any requirements imposed by
22 the University System of Maryland, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education,
23 the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or the American Bar Association;

24 (ii) the operational feasibility of locating a law school in Prince
25 George's County, including an examination of other area law schools and the enrollment
26 needed to justify establishing a new law school; and

27 (iii) the economic feasibility of locating a law school in Prince
28 George's County, including examining the cost savings and other benefits expected from
29 establishing a law school compared with the expenditures associated with establishing a
30 law school;

31 (2) make recommendations on whether it is legally, operationally, and
32 economically feasible to establish and operate a Bowie State University Law School in

1 Prince George's County; and

2 (3) retain consultants as necessary to provide data collection and analysis
3 in order to complete the study.

4 (g) The Governor shall include in the State budget an appropriation of \$100,000
5 to Bowie State University to conduct the feasibility study.

6 (h) On or before December 1, 2020, the Task Force shall report its findings and
7 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
8 Government Article, the General Assembly.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
10 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June
11 30, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
12 abrogated and of no further force and effect.