

Chapter 223

(Senate Bill 347)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study the Impact of Adjunct Faculty on Graduation Rates at Historically Black Institutions

FOR the purpose of creating the Task Force to Study the Impact of Adjunct Faculty on Graduation Rates at Historically Black Institutions in the State; providing for the membership, duties, compensation, and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to make certain findings and recommendations by a certain date; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and certain committees by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Impact of Adjunct Faculty on Graduation Rates at Historically Black Institutions in the State.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Impact of Adjunct Faculty on Graduation Rates at Historically Black Institutions in the State.

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

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

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

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

(4) the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the Chancellor's designee;

(5) the President of Bowie State University, or the President's designee;

(6) the President of Coppin State University, or the President's designee;

(7) the President of Morgan State University, or the President's designee;

(8) the President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, or the President's designee;

(9) a representative of students at historically black institutions in the State appointed by the Secretary of Higher Education;

(10) a representative of adjunct faculty at historically black institutions in the State appointed by the Secretary of Higher Education; and

(11) a representative of administrators at historically black institutions in the State who address retention issues.

(c) The Secretary of Higher Education shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) analyze the number and type of adjunct faculty and the number of tenured faculty at historically black institutions in the State and other institutions of higher education in the State;

(2) evaluate the ratio of adjunct to full-time faculty at historically black institutions in the State in comparison to other institutions of higher education in the State and assess the impact of the ratio on retention and graduation rates at historically black institutions in the State;

(3) evaluate the impact of different kinds of adjunct instruction, including full-time, nontenure-track instructors, graduate student instructors, part-time instructors, and postdoctoral fellows on retention and graduation rates; and

(4) make findings and recommendations regarding the relationship between the ratio of adjunct to full-time faculty at historically black institutions in the State and current disparities in retention and graduation rates in Maryland's institutions of higher education.

(g) On or before January 1, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Appropriations Committee.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of September 30, 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2011.