

(3) Design proposals to support the professional development of early childhood education staff, which may include:

(i) Identifying appropriate and desired education levels of staff;

(ii) Recommending a compensation plan related to educational levels and experience that recognizes the value of early childhood education;

(iii) Promoting mentor relationships in quality programs for educators and aspiring educators who seek to enter or improve the field as an early childhood education teacher;

(iv) Identifying incentives and rewards to encourage ongoing professional development; and

(v) Expanding access to and the creation of innovative strategies for professional development opportunities;

(4) Create an implementation plan to motivate and promote the value of and participation in early childhood learning opportunities for parents and the general public, including the business community;

(5) Recommend to the legislature a conceptual framework, along with proposals for policies and legislation necessary to facilitate and monitor the implementation of that framework; and

(6) Identify or develop appropriate evaluation methods, including appropriate performance indicators that will allow monitoring, improvement, and accountability of any initiative it proposes.

(d) The Task Force may form workgroups and subcommittees to:

(1) Obtain input from stakeholders, early education professionals, and any other individuals it determines necessary; and

(2) Perform any other functions it deems necessary to fulfill its mission.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) May not receive compensation; but

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

(f) The Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and the University System of Maryland shall provide staff to the Task Force.

(g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, on or before December 1, 2007.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~1 year and 6 months~~ 2 years and,