

Preamble

WHEREAS, In 1995 the Governor vetoed legislation (House Bill 215) which was passed by the General Assembly and would have required that, in the preparation of a form requiring the identification of race, departments and other units of the State government must include the term "multiracial" as a choice of race; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to address the needs of children in multiracial families, who are effectively forced by the State to prefer one parent over the other when completing forms prepared by the State; and

WHEREAS, As is true elsewhere in the United States, the demographics in Maryland are rapidly changing and the number of racially mixed families is increasing; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of a multiracial category on State forms would accord children the freedom to choose a self-identity that does not deny a part of who they are; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments

18-310.

(A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE ON MULTIRACIAL DESIGNATIONS.

(B) (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE COMPOSED OF 13 MEMBERS APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

(I) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

(II) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND

(III) NINE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

(2) OF THE NINE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

(I) TWO SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESOL);

(II) ONE SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING STATE FORMS;

(III) ONE SHALL BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MINORITY AFFAIRS;

(IV) ONE SHALL BE A PRINCIPAL IN A SCHOOL WITH A DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION;

(V) ONE SHALL BE A DEMOGRAPHER;