

(xvi) a member of the Governor's Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence.

(c) The Commission shall review the status of funding and services for gifted and talented students in major academic areas, the arts, and leadership and make recommendations to:

(1) ensure that all local school districts have appropriate advanced learning opportunities for gifted and talented students in kindergarten through grade 12;

(2) ensure that there is adequate funding for services, teacher preparation, counseling, and other support for meeting the needs of gifted and talented students;

(3) develop accountability standards for gifted and talented education services in Maryland;

(4) ensure that the identification of, and delivery of appropriate services for, traditionally under-represented groups, including but not limited to minorities, non- and limited-English proficient students, students with disabilities, and students living in poverty;

(5) ensure appropriate services for gifted and talented students with special learning problems, including but not limited to learning disabilities, limited English proficiency, emotional disabilities, and attention deficit disorder; and

(6) eliminate administrative obstacles to appropriate services, including obstacles prohibiting dual concurrent enrollment options in middle and high schools, and high schools and colleges, the lack of information about services, the lack of access, including transportation, to services, and the inability of schools to report information and test scores to families.

(d) The Commission shall be appointed by August 1, 2000 and begin meeting by September 1, 2000.

(e) In appointing members of the Commission, the Governor shall ensure regional, ethnic, economic, and gender diversity to the extent possible.

(f) The Department of Education shall provide staff support for the Commission.

(g) (1) On or before January 1, 2001, the Commission shall provide an interim report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

(2) On or before November 1, 2001, the Commission shall provide a final report containing the findings and recommendations of the Commission to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October June 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 7 months