

from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive certain reimbursements; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on the Establishment of Vocational and Technical Education High School Academies in Prince George's County.

Preamble

WHEREAS, A disproportionately large number of students do not graduate from high school and may not be prepared for the workplace in Prince George's County; and

WHEREAS, A large percentage of students who do graduate from high school in Prince George's County do not go on to postsecondary education and instead directly enter the workforce; and

WHEREAS, It has been reported that the current Prince George's County public high school curriculum and method of teaching does not adequately prepare all students for meaningful and productive work; and

WHEREAS, There have been complaints from employers in Prince George's County that students are not adequately prepared for work; and

WHEREAS, There is a clear need for skilled workers in many industries and fields now located in Prince George's County or likely to move there; and

WHEREAS, There is a constitutional obligation that all students receive an adequate public education that prepares them for work and citizenship; and

WHEREAS, There is interest in the community in Prince George's County in exploring an alternative model for education for students who do not go on to postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, There exists a need to identify research-based models that better prepare students for entry into the workplace and for lifelong advancement and learning; and

WHEREAS, There has been interest in the establishment of vocational and technical training academies in Prince George's County; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for a broad-based forum, with participation from many stakeholders, for the exploration of these topics in ways that lead to practical solutions; now, therefore,