



HOUSE BILL 895: Opportunity Gap Task Force.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 1, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Blackwell, Brockman, Horn, Meyer	Prepared by:	Samantha Yarborough
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 895 would establish the Opportunity Gap Task Force (Task Force).*

BILL ANALYSIS: The Second Edition of House Bill 895 would establish the Task Force consisting of 14 members. These appointments would have to be made by August 1, 2019. The Speaker and the President Pro Tempore would each select a co-chair of the Task Force. The Task Force would meet upon the call of the co-chairs, with the first meeting no later than September 1, 2019.

For the purposes of the Task Force, "opportunity gap" would mean "the significant disparity in the academic performance and postsecondary readiness of students between any of the following subgroups: races, ethnicities, socioeconomic statuses, gender, English-language proficiencies, and urban, rural, or suburban domiciles."

The Task Force would be required to do the following: (i) study the opportunity gap, (ii) consider effective approaches and best practices from across the country to close the opportunity gap in grades kindergarten through 12, and (iii) propose a plan to reduce the opportunity gap for all subgroups by July 1, 2030. The Task Force would be required to consider specific topics and invite input from specific groups, as outlined in the bill.

In its proposed plan to reduce the opportunity gap for all subgroups, the Task Force would include all of the following: (i) information identifying opportunity gaps that exist between races, ethnicities, socioeconomic statuses, gender, English-language proficiencies, and urban, rural, or suburban domiciles; (ii) recommendations for closing or significantly reducing the opportunity gaps identified by the Task Force; and (iii) benchmarks for implementation of the proposed plan.

The final report, including the proposed plan, would have to be submitted by December 1, 2020, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The Task Force would terminate upon the filing of the report, or December 1, 2020, whichever occurs first.

EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 895 would become effective when it becomes law.

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