

report by certain dates; and generally relating to the Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence.

(b) The Commission shall review the current education financing formulas and accountability measures and make recommendations for:

(1) ensuring the adequacy of funding for students in public schools statewide, including early childhood education programs;

(2) ensuring equity in funding for students in public schools statewide;

(3) ensuring excellence in school systems and student performance statewide;

(4) providing for a smooth transition as current educational funding initiatives abrogate; ~~and~~

(5) analyzing whether it is more effective to provide additional State aid in the form of targeted grants or by increasing funding through the base formula; and

(6) ensuring that local property tax policies do not affect the equitable allocation of funding for students in public schools statewide.

(c) The Commission shall be composed of ~~23~~ 25 ~~27~~ members as follows:

(1) a chairman appointed by the Governor;

(2) the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

~~(3)~~ (3) two members of the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee appointed by the President of the Senate;

~~(4)~~ (4) two members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee appointed by the President of the Senate;

~~(5)~~ (5) two members of the House Ways and Means Committee appointed by the Speaker of the House;

~~(6)~~ (6) two members of the House Appropriations Committee appointed by the Speaker of the House;

~~(7)~~ (7) the State Superintendent of Schools;

~~(8)~~ (8) the Secretary of Budget and Management;

~~(9)~~ (9) ~~the President~~ a member of the State Board of Education;

~~(10)~~ (10) a representative of the Maryland State Teachers Association appointed by the Governor;