
By: **Delegates Cane, Nathan-Pulliam, and Oaks**
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Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 21, 2000

CHAPTER 466

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Health Care Needs of Inmates in Transition from**
3 **Correctional Institutions**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a task force to study the health care needs of inmates
5 in transition from correctional institutions; providing for the membership,
6 duties, and staffing of the task force; requiring the task force to issue a report by
7 a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
8 to the establishment of a task force to study the health care needs of inmates in
9 transition from correctional institutions.

10 BY adding to
11 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
12 Section 18-318
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

17 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

18 18-318.

19 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF INMATES
20 IN TRANSITION FROM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

21 (B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

- 1 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTED BY THE
2 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;
- 3 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY THE
4 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;
- 5 (3) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
6 MENTAL HYGIENE;
- 7 (4) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS;
- 8 (5) ONE LICENSED PHYSICIAN WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH
9 RELEASED INMATES IN TRANSITION;
- 10 (6) ONE REGISTERED NURSE WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH
11 RELEASED INMATES IN TRANSITION;
- 12 (7) ONE LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH
13 RELEASED INMATES IN TRANSITION;
- 14 (8) ONE LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH
15 RELEASED INMATES IN TRANSITION;
- 16 (9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE
17 PROGRAM;
- 18 (10) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A BALTIMORE CITY SUBSTANCE ABUSE
19 PROGRAM;
- 20 (11) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A COUNTY HEALTH CLINIC PROGRAM;
- 21 (12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH CLINIC
22 PROGRAM;
- 23 (13) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF
24 SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORS;
- 25 (14) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF HOSPITALS IN THE STATE;
- 26 (15) ONE FORMER INMATE;
- 27 (16) ONE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER;
- 28 (17) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE;
29 AND
- 30 (18) ONE EXPERIENCED ADDICTIONS COUNSELOR.
- 31 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE.

1 (D) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF INMATES IN
2 TRANSITION FROM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY:

3 (1) EXAMINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM OF RELEASED INMATES
4 WITH HEALTH CARE NEEDS IN THE STATE, AND THE NUMBER OF HEALTH CARE
5 PROGRAMS THAT EXIST TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM;

6 (2) COLLECTING DATA TO DETERMINE THE CORRELATION BETWEEN
7 HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF RELEASED INMATES WITH DIABETES, HIV, VIRAL
8 HEPATITIS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADDICTION, AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED
9 DISEASES, AND THE COMMISSION OF CRIMES;

10 (3) DETERMINING THE EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS
11 ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THOSE RELEASED INMATES WITH DIABETES, HIV, VIRAL
12 HEPATITIS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADDICTION, AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES
13 WHO SEEK TREATMENT;

14 (4) EXAMINING THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS
15 DESIGNED FOR RECENTLY RELEASED INMATES, AS WELL AS THE OUTCOMES OF
16 THOSE PROGRAMS IN RELATION TO THE LENGTH OF STAY;

17 (5) EXAMINING THE AVAILABILITY OF MEDICATION FOR RECENTLY
18 RELEASED INMATES WITH DIABETES, HIV, VIRAL HEPATITIS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE
19 ADDICTION, AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES;

20 (6) EXAMINING THE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AVAILABLE IN THE
21 STATE FOR TREATMENT OF RECENTLY RELEASED INMATES WITH HEALTH CARE
22 NEEDS;

23 (7) MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF
24 HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS FOR RECENTLY RELEASED INMATES, BOTH SHORT-TERM
25 AND LONG-TERM; AND

26 (8) TAKING ANY OTHER ACTION NECESSARY AND PROPER TO CARRY
27 OUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION.

28 (E) MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION
29 EXCEPT THAT THE MEMBERS MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
30 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

31 (F) THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, IN COOPERATION
32 WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE STATE AND LOCAL UNITS, SHALL PROVIDE STAFF
33 SUPPORT FOR THE TASK FORCE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITHIN EXISTING
34 BUDGETED RESOURCES.

35 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS,
36 RECOMMENDATIONS, AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO THE GOVERNOR AND,
37 SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL
38 ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2001.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the
3 end of December 31, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
4 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.