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By: **Delegates McDonough, Boteler, and Impallaria**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2004

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Task Force to Study the Impact of Methadone Clinics on Surrounding**  
3                                   **Communities and Businesses**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Impact of Methadone  
5 Clinics on Surrounding Communities and Businesses; establishing the  
6 membership of the Task Force; requiring the chairman of the Task Force to be  
7 elected from among its members; providing for staffing of the Task Force;  
8 providing that a member of the Task Force is entitled to reimbursement for  
9 expenses; establishing the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to  
10 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General  
11 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;  
12 and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Impact of Methadone  
13 Clinics on Surrounding Communities and Businesses.

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

16       (a)       There is a Task Force to Study the Impact of Methadone Clinics on  
17 Surrounding Communities and Businesses.

18       (b)       The Task Force consists of the following members:

19               (1)       the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's  
20 designee;

21               (2)       six health care professionals with experience in drug treatment, two  
22 of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, two by the President of the Senate, and  
23 two by the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

24               (3)       six members of the business community, two of whom shall be  
25 appointed by the Governor, two by the President of the Senate, and two by the  
26 Speaker of the House of Delegates; and

27               (4)       six consumers, two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, two  
28 by the President of the Senate, and two by the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

29       (c)       The chairman shall be elected from among the members of the Task Force.

1 (d) The Department of Legislative Services and the Department of Health and  
2 Mental Hygiene jointly shall provide staff for the Task Force.

3 (e) A member of the Task Force:

4 (1) may not receive compensation; but

5 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
6 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

7 (f) The Task Force shall:

8 (1) study mechanisms currently in place in the State for tracking and  
9 evaluating complaints from local communities and businesses regarding the location  
10 of methadone clinics;

11 (2) study mechanisms currently in place in the State to provide  
12 surrounding businesses and local communities with information on the location of  
13 methadone clinics in the surrounding area;

14 (3) evaluate the impact of methadone clinics on surrounding businesses  
15 and neighborhoods; and

16 (4) make recommendations on the possibility of prohibiting the location  
17 of methadone clinics near churches, schools, and child care facilities.

18 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
19 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General  
20 Assembly on or before December 1, 2004.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 July 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of  
23 December 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
24 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.