

Chapter 394

(House Bill 955)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study Temporary Disability Insurance Programs and the Process for Assisting Individuals with Disabilities at Local Departments of Social Services

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Temporary Disability Insurance Programs and the Process for Assisting Individuals with Disabilities at Local Departments of Social Services; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Temporary Disability Insurance Programs and the Process for Assisting Individuals with Disabilities at Local Departments of Social Services.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Temporary Disability Insurance Programs and the Process for Assisting Individuals with Disabilities at Local Departments of Social Services.

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

(1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Commissioner of the Maryland Insurance Administration, or the Commissioner's designee;

(4) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

(5) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary's designee;

(6) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's designee; and

(7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the Workers' Compensation Commission;

(ii) one representative of ~~the American Cancer Society~~ All Shades of Pink;

(iii) one representative of the Cancer Support Foundation;

(iv) two representatives of Maryland labor organizations;

(v) one representative of the ~~Maryland Chamber of Commerce~~ Leukemia and Lymphoma Society;

(vi) two members of the business community;

(vii) ~~three~~ two members of the insurance industry, including one member of the temporary disability insurance industry; ~~and~~

(viii) one member of the public;

(ix) one representative of a disability advocacy organization;

(x) two representatives of local departments of social services;
and

(xi) at least two representatives of cancer treatment centers in the State who perform patient navigation services.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Maryland Insurance Administration and the Department of Human Resources shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) study the full complement of benefits available under State and federal law to workers and recently unemployed individuals in Maryland who become disabled due to nonwork-related illness or injury;

(2) study the wage replacement benefits available to a worker or a recently unemployed individual in Maryland who becomes disabled due to nonwork-related illness or injury;

(3) study the availability and sufficiency of wage replacement benefits available to workers and recently unemployed individuals in Maryland who become disabled due to nonwork-related cancer;

(4) study the exclusivity and exhaustion of benefit standards that limit the level or extent of benefits that a worker or a recently unemployed individual in Maryland who becomes disabled due to nonwork-related illness or injury may receive;

(5) study and compare temporary disability insurance programs in other jurisdictions in terms of:

- (i) coverage;
- (ii) eligibility requirements and limitations;
- (iii) minimum and maximum benefit threshold amounts;
- (iv) costs to employers, employees, and administrators;
- (v) funding mechanisms;
- (vi) administration; and
- (vii) appeals processes;

(6) study and make recommendations regarding the adequacy of the application processes utilized by local departments of social services to assist individuals who become disabled due to nonwork-related illness or injury, including individuals undergoing treatment for cancer, and who apply for assistance, including food stamps, temporary cash assistance, energy assistance benefits, temporary disability assistance benefits, and medical assistance;

~~(6)~~ (7) make recommendations regarding potential costs and benefits to the State's workforce of establishing a temporary disability insurance program; and

~~(7)~~ (8) make recommendations regarding the potential structure, administration, eligibility standards, and funding mechanisms for a temporary disability insurance program in Maryland.

(g) On or before December 1, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2013.