

SENATE BILL 888

C4, K3

3lr3182
CF HB 955

By: ~~Senator Garagiola~~ Senators Garagiola, Klausmeier, and Muse

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2013

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Finance, February 21, 2013

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 17, 2013

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

2 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
3 President of the Senate;

4 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the
5 Speaker of the House;

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (ii) one representative of the American Cancer Society;

17 (iii) one representative of the Cancer Support Foundation;

18 (iv) two representatives of Maryland labor organizations;

19 (v) three members of the business community;

20 (vi) two members of the insurance industry, including one
21 member of the temporary disability insurance industry; ~~and~~

22 (vii) one member of the public;

23 (viii) one representative of a disability advocacy organization; and

24 (ix) two representatives of local departments of social services.

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

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

28 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

4 (f) The Task Force shall:

5 (1) study the full complement of benefits available under State and
6 federal law to workers and recently unemployed individuals in Maryland who are
7 disabled;

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

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

14 (4) study the exclusivity and exhaustion of benefit standards that
15 limit the level or extent of benefits that a worker or a recently unemployed individual
16 in Maryland who is disabled may receive;

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

19 (i) coverage;

20 (ii) eligibility requirements and limitations;

21 (iii) minimum and maximum benefit threshold amounts;

22 (iv) costs to employers, employees, and administrators;

23 (v) funding mechanisms;

24 (vi) administration; and

25 (vii) appeals processes;

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

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1 ~~(6)~~ (7) make recommendations regarding potential costs and benefits to
2 the State's workforce of establishing a temporary disability insurance program; and

3 ~~(7)~~ (8) make recommendations regarding the potential structure,
4 administration, eligibility standards, and funding mechanisms for a temporary
5 disability insurance program in Maryland.

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

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
11 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
12 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.