

# SENATE BILL 864

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By: **Senator Gladden**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Assistance for Families of  
4 Homicide Victims; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task  
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain  
6 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;  
7 requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain  
8 matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to  
9 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing  
10 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on  
11 Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force on Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims.

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

16 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
17 of the Senate;

18 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
19 the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee; and

21 (4) the following members appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) one mental health professional with experience addressing  
23 the needs of family members of homicide victims; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) three family members of homicide victims.

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

3 (d) The Department of Juvenile Services shall provide staff for the Task  
4 Force.

5 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

9 (f) The Task Force shall:

10 (1) identify and study the challenges facing families of homicide  
11 victims, particularly families living in urban, high-crime areas;

12 (2) convene regional public forums to gather information and feedback  
13 from families of homicide victims;

14 (3) consult with experts in the field on strategies for assisting families  
15 of homicide victims; and

16 (4) make recommendations regarding how best to assist families of  
17 homicide victims.

18 (g) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings  
19 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
20 Government Article, the General Assembly.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 June 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of one year and one month and, at  
23 the end of June 30, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
24 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.