

HOUSE BILL 856

J2

4lr2225

By: **Delegates Nathan–Pulliam, Bohanan, Burns, Cane, Carr, Costa, Cullison, Frush, Griffith, Gutierrez, Hammen, Hubbard, Kach, A. Kelly, Morhaim, Oaks, Pena–Melnyk, Reznik, and V. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2014

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Task Force on Community Health Workers

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Community Health Workers; 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 conduct a certain study, develop certain training and practice standards, and develop certain recommendations; requiring the Task Force to submit certain reports to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Community Health Workers.

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

- (a) There is a Task Force on Community Health Workers.
- (b) The Task Force consists of:
 - (1) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (2) one member of the General Assembly who has served on a committee with jurisdiction over health disparities issues, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House; and
 - (3) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
 - (i) two representatives of local health departments;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(ii) two representatives of community colleges that have training programs for health care workers;

(iii) one representative of a 4-year college or university;

(iv) one representative of the Maryland Public Health Association;

(v) two representatives from hospitals that provide training for community health workers;

(vi) one licensed registered nurse with experience in public health;

(vii) one representative of the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities;

(viii) one licensed physician;

(ix) one representative of the State Board of Nursing; and

(x) one representative of the Department of Housing and Community Development who is working as a community health worker.

(c) The Task Force shall elect a chair from among the members of the Task Force.

(d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene 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) develop standardized training and practice standards for community health workers, including recommendations for a curriculum;

(2) conduct a statewide study of the utilization, financing, and impact of community health workers;

(3) develop recommendations for a sustainable community health worker program in the State;

(4) develop recommendations for the reimbursement of community health workers through public and private insurance; and

(5) develop recommendations for certification standards for community health workers.

(d) (1) On or before January 1, 2015, the Task Force shall submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

(2) On or before May 31, 2015, the Task Force shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

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