

SENATE BILL 297

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SB 505/14 – FIN

5lr0602

By: **Senators Kelley, Astle, Benson, Feldman, King, Klausmeier, Lee, Mathias, Middleton, Montgomery, Nathan–Pulliam, and Pugh**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long–Term Supports**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long–Term
4 Supports; providing for the composition, staff, and dates of the Task Force;
5 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly
8 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
9 relating to the Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long–Term Supports.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, Some 770,000 Marylanders are taking care of loved ones, including
12 those who are aging or have failing health; and

13 WHEREAS, The vast majority of older adults who need assistance with activities of
14 daily living want to remain in their homes and communities; and

15 WHEREAS, Providing services and supports to older adults in their homes and
16 communities is generally much less expensive than nursing home care or adult day care;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Almost three–fourths of older adults living in their homes and receiving
19 personal assistance rely exclusively on unpaid caregivers for help; and

20 WHEREAS, Older adults who receive cost–effective services in their homes are much
21 less likely to need public assistance; and

22 WHEREAS, To successfully address the surging population of older adults who have
23 significant needs for long–term services and supports, the State must encourage families

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 to assist their aging relatives and develop ways to support families in that undertaking, as
2 well as enhance efforts to recruit and retain a qualified, responsive in-home care workforce;
3 now, therefore,

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

6 (a) There is a Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long-Term Supports.

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

8 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
9 the Senate;

10 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
11 House;

12 (3) one representative of the Department of Human Resources, appointed
13 by the Secretary of Human Resources;

14 (4) one representative of the Department of Aging, appointed by the
15 Secretary of Aging;

16 (5) one representative of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
17 appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene;

18 (6) one representative of MTA Mobility, appointed by the Secretary of
19 Transportation;

20 (7) the health officer or the health officer's designee from a county from
21 each of the following areas:

22 (i) the Eastern Shore;

23 (ii) a suburb of Washington, D.C.;

24 (iii) Western Maryland; and

25 (iv) the Baltimore region;

26 (8) one representative of AARP Maryland, appointed by the AARP
27 Maryland State President;

28 (9) one representative of the March of Dimes Maryland-National Capital
29 Area, appointed by the Executive Director of the March of Dimes
30 Maryland-National Capital Area;

1 (10) one representative of the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Maryland
2 Chapter, appointed by the Executive Director of the Alzheimer's
3 Association, Greater Maryland Chapter;

4 (11) one representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland,
5 appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Mental Health Association of Maryland;

6 (12) one representative of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland,
7 appointed by the President of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland;

8 (13) one representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of
9 Maryland, appointed by the Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness
10 of Maryland;

11 (14) one representative of the Hospice and Palliative Care Network of
12 Maryland, appointed by the President of the Board of Directors of the Hospice and
13 Palliative Care Network of Maryland;

14 (15) one representative of the Maryland Gerontological Association,
15 appointed by the President of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Gerontological
16 Association;

17 (16) one representative of the Maryland Hospital Association, appointed by
18 the President of the Maryland Hospital Association; and

19 (17) three family caregivers, appointed by AARP Maryland.

20 (c) AARP Maryland shall provide staff for the Task Force.

21 (d) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

25 (e) The Task Force shall:

26 (1) identify policies, resources, and programs available for family
27 caregivers and find additional innovative and creative means to support family caregivers
28 in continuing to provide needed in-home care and assistance for older adults;

29 (2) receive testimony on the needs of family caregivers, including
30 designation of caregivers, training, respite services, medical leave policies, delegation of
31 tasks to nonmedical aides, and other related policies;

1 (3) compile an inventory of the resources available to family caregivers;
2 and

3 (4) evaluate and recommend actions the State could take, including
4 legislative and administrative actions, to develop, train, and retain a qualified and
5 responsive in-home care workforce.

6 (f) On or before September 30, 2016, the Task Force shall submit a report of its
7 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the
8 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
10 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 4 months and, at the end of
11 October 30, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
12 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.