

# HOUSE BILL 1249

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By: **Delegates Haynes and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: March 5, 2015

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

### **Task Force to Improve Suicide Prevention Programs for Veterans**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Improve Suicide Prevention Programs for Veterans; 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 certain suicide prevention programs and develop a certain plan; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and a certain plan 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 Improve Suicide Prevention Programs for Veterans.

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

- (a) There is a Task Force to Improve Suicide Prevention Programs for Veterans.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:
  - (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
  - (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
  - (3) two representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs, appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
  - (4) two representatives of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(5) one representative of the Maryland Commission on Suicide Prevention, appointed by the Governor.

(c) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Department of Veterans Affairs 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 existing suicide prevention programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

(2) develop a plan to:

(i) improve the effectiveness of suicide prevention programs for veterans; and

(ii) promote collaboration among the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, military communities in the State, and families of veterans in working to prevent suicide by veterans.

(g) On or before December 31, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and the plan developed under subsection (f)(2) of this section 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 July 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.