

Chapter 602

(Senate Bill 1047)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study Recording Deeds for Victims of Domestic Violence

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Recording Deeds for Victims of Domestic Violence; 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 and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations 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 Study Recording Deeds for Victims of Domestic Violence.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Recording Deeds for Victims of Domestic Violence.

(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) the Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee;

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

(5) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;

(6) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee; ~~and~~

(7) the State Archivist, or the State Archivist's designee;

(8) the Director of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, or the Director's designee; and

(9) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

- (i) one representative of the Maryland Realtors Association;
- (ii) one representative of the Maryland Bankers Association;
- (iii) one representative of the Maryland State Bar Association; ~~and~~
- (iv) one representative of the Maryland Land Title Association;
- (v) one representative of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association; ~~and~~
- (vi) one representative of an organization that advocates for victims of domestic violence;
- (vii) one representative of the Maryland Associations of Counties; and
- (viii) one representative of the Maryland Municipal League.

(c) The Secretary of State shall be the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Office of the Secretary of State 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 study and make recommendations regarding how to protect the identity and address of a participant in the Address Confidentiality Program for victims of domestic violence in the Office of the Secretary of State when recording a deed transferring real property to or from a Program participant.

(g) On or before December 1, 2017, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations 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, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2016.