

# HOUSE BILL 1564

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CF SB 659

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By: **Delegates J. Lewis, Barron, and C. Howard**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2017

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Practices and Procedures on Solitary Confinement**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Practices and Procedures on Solitary  
4 Confinement; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing 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 study and make recommendations on certain issues related to solitary confinement  
8 in the correctional system of the State; requiring the Task Force to report its findings  
9 and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a  
10 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the  
11 Task Force on Practices and Procedures on Solitary Confinement.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force on Practices and Procedures on Solitary Confinement.

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

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

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

20 (3) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the  
21 Secretary's designee;

22 (4) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

23 (5) the Public Defender, or the Public Defender's designee;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (6) one representative of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland,  
2 selected by the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland;

3 (7) one representative of the National Juvenile Defender Center, selected  
4 by the National Juvenile Defender Center; and

5 (8) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

6 (i) two individuals who have spent substantial time in solitary  
7 confinement in the correctional system of the State; and

8 (ii) one psychiatrist with experience treating individuals who have  
9 spent time in solitary confinement in the correctional system of the State.

10 (c) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall designate the  
11 chair of the Task Force.

12 (d) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide staff for  
13 the Task Force.

14 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

18 (f) The Task Force shall:

19 (1) study the use of solitary confinement as a disciplinary tool, and what  
20 effect solitary confinement has on recidivism and reoffense;

21 (2) collect and analyze data regarding the reasons people are given solitary  
22 confinement, the average duration an individual spends in solitary confinement, and  
23 demographic statistics regarding what individuals are given solitary confinement; and

24 (3) recommend alternate means of punishment to be used instead of  
25 solitary confinement and methods to reduce or eliminate the use of solitary confinement.

26 (g) On or before December 1, 2017, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
27 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
28 Government Article, the General Assembly.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
30 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June

1 30, 2018, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.