

Chapter 708

(Senate Bill 444)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force on the Social Determinants of Health in Baltimore City

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Social Determinants of Health in Baltimore City; providing for the purpose, duties, composition, cochairs, and staffing of the Task Force; requiring, to the extent practicable, the Task Force to reflect a certain diversity; requiring the Task Force to identify and examine certain social factors and develop and implement certain solutions for a certain purpose; requiring the Task Force to include certain subcommittees; authorizing the Task Force to apply for certain grants; requiring the Task Force to consult with a certain office for a certain purpose; providing for the appointment of chairs of the subcommittees of the Task Force; establishing a certain advisory board; requiring the Advisory Board to perform certain functions; providing for the composition and cochairs of the Advisory Board; providing for the terms of members of the Advisory Board; prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation and from receiving reimbursement for certain expenses; prohibiting members of the Advisory Board from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; defining certain terms; specifying the terms of certain initial members of the Advisory Board; *providing for the termination of this Act*; and generally relating to the Task Force on the Social Determinants of Health in Baltimore City.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 13–3601 through 13–3608 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 36. Task Force on the Social Determinants of Health in Baltimore City”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General**SUBTITLE 36. TASK FORCE ON THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN BALTIMORE CITY.****13–3601.**

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “ADVISORY BOARD” MEANS THE ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED UNDER § 13–3606(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(C) “HEALTH INEQUITIES” MEANS THE UNFAIR AND AVOIDABLE DIFFERENCES IN HEALTH STATUS SEEN WITHIN AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

(D) “SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH” MEANS THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS ARE BORN, GROW, LIVE, WORK, AND AGE THAT ARE:

(1) SHAPED BY THE DISTRIBUTION OF MONEY, POWER, AND RESOURCES AT GLOBAL, NATIONAL, AND LOCAL LEVELS; AND

(2) PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH INEQUITIES.

(E) “TASK FORCE” MEANS THE TASK FORCE ON THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN BALTIMORE CITY ESTABLISHED UNDER § 13–3602 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

13–3602.

THERE IS A TASK FORCE ON THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN BALTIMORE CITY.

13–3603.

(A) THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE IS TO FUNCTION AS A MULTISECTOR COLLABORATIVE ACTION GROUP TO ADDRESS THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN BALTIMORE CITY.

(B) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

(1) IDENTIFY AND EXAMINE THE NEGATIVE SOCIAL FACTORS THAT:

(I) ARE CAUSING HARDSHIP FOR RESIDENTS OF BALTIMORE CITY;

(II) ARE CYCLICAL IN NATURE; AND

(III) SPAN GENERATIONS; AND

(2) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE SOCIAL, MATERIAL, ECONOMIC, AND PHYSICAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH RESIDENTS OF BALTIMORE CITY LIVE, WORK, PLAY, AND WORSHIP SO THAT RESIDENTS OF BALTIMORE CITY AND THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY LIVE MAY HAVE THE THRIVING AND HIGH-QUALITY LIFE THEY DESERVE.

13-3604.

(A) (1) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD:

(I) REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT;

(II) HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS;

(III) URBAN PLANNERS;

(IV) ENTREPRENEURS;

(V) MEMBERS OF THE BLACK MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE;

AND

(VI) OTHER INDIVIDUALS WITH AN INTEREST IN THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN BALTIMORE CITY.

(2) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE TASK FORCE SHALL REFLECT THE RACIAL, ETHNIC, CULTURAL, AND GENDER DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

(B) THE TASK FORCE SHALL INCLUDE FIVE SUBCOMMITTEES WITH EACH SUBCOMMITTEE ADDRESSING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SUBJECT AREAS:

(1) EDUCATION, INCLUDING:

(I) THE LACK OF ADEQUATE SCHOOLS, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS;

(II) LOW GRADUATION RATES; AND

(III) VIOLENCE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE ABILITY OF CHILDREN TO LEARN;

(2) HOUSING, INCLUDING:

(I) THE CONDITION OF HOUSING IN LOW-INCOME AREAS, INCLUDING THE PRESENCE OF PESTS, LEAD, AND MOLD IN HOUSING;

(II) BLIGHT;

(III) NEGLECTED AND BOARDED-UP HOUSING; AND

(IV) BROKEN PAVEMENT AND THE ABSENCE OF STREET LIGHTING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS;

(3) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS, INCLUDING:

(I) CHRONIC UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND THE LACK OF SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT;

(II) JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS TO SPUR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES; AND

(III) EMPLOYMENT OF RETURNING RESIDENTS;

(4) HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS AFFECTING RESIDENTS:

(I) HIGH MORBIDITY AND PREMATURE MORTALITY;

(II) HIGH RATES OF HEPATITIS C, HIV/AIDS, DIABETES, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, STROKE, SUICIDE, MENTAL ILLNESS, INFANT MORTALITY, AND ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE, INCLUDING OPIOID USE;

(III) LOW BIRTH RATES; AND

(IV) POOR AND INADEQUATE NUTRITION, INCLUDING POOR PRENATAL CARE; AND

(5) CIVIL UNREST AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, INCLUDING HOMICIDES, RAPES, ROBBERIES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STREET VIOLENCE, GANG ACTIVITY, AND OTHER CRIMES AFFECTING NEIGHBORHOODS.

(C) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSULT WITH THE OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND DISPARITIES IN CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE.

(D) THE TASK FORCE MAY APPLY FOR GRANTS FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE.

13-3605.

(A) THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE, SHALL APPOINT THE COCHAIRS OF THE TASK FORCE.

(B) THE COCHAIRS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL JOINTLY APPOINT A CHAIR FOR EACH OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES ESTABLISHED UNDER § 13-3604(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(C) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE, SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE TASK FORCE.

13-3606.

(A) THERE IS AN ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TASK FORCE.

(B) THE ADVISORY BOARD CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

(1) THE COCHAIRS OF THE TASK FORCE APPOINTED UNDER § 13-3605(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(2) THE CHAIRS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES ESTABLISHED UNDER § 13-3604 OF THIS SUBTITLE APPOINTED UNDER § 13-3605(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(3) TWO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

(C) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B)(1) OR (2) OF THIS SECTION IS 3 YEARS.

(2) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

(3) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

(4) THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS ON JULY 1, 2018.

(D) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT A MEETING SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

(E) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE TIMES, PLACES, AND FREQUENCY OF ITS MEETINGS.

(F) THE COCHAIRS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE THE COCHAIRS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD.

(G) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL:

(1) APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE;

(2) MANAGE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK FORCE; AND

(3) ADOPT BYLAWS OR RULES TO GOVERN THE OPERATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE.

13-3607.

(A) A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD:

(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD; BUT

(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(B) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE:

(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE; AND

(2) IS NOT ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

13-3608.

ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK FORCE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial members of the Advisory Board for the Task Force on the Social Determinants of Health in Baltimore City specified in § 13–3606(b)(1) and (2) of the Health – General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall expire as follows:

- (1) two members in 2019;
- (2) two members in 2020; and
- (3) three members in 2021.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2018. *It shall remain effective for a period of 7 years and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.*

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2018.