

# SENATE BILL 921

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By: **Senator Hershey**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Premature Discharge of Patients With Substance Use**  
3 **Disorders**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Premature Discharge of Patients  
5 With Substance Use Disorders; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of  
6 the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain  
7 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the  
8 Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters;  
9 requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor  
10 and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination  
11 of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on the Premature Discharge of  
12 Patients With Substance Use Disorders.

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force on the Premature Discharge of Patients With Substance  
16 Use Disorders.

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

18 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
19 the Senate;

20 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
21 House;

22 (3) the Secretary of Health or the Secretary's designee; and

23 (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) two representatives of local health departments;

2 (ii) three health care providers whose practice regularly includes  
3 patients admitted to facilities designed to treat substance use disorders;

4 (iii) one representative from the community concerned with issues  
5 related to the treatment of substance use disorders; and

6 (iv) one representative of an organization that advocates on behalf of  
7 those with substance use disorders.

8 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

9 (d) The Maryland Department of Health shall provide staff for the Task Force.

10 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

14 (f) The Task Force shall:

15 (1) collect information on:

16 (i) the treatment practices for patients who are admitted to facilities  
17 designed to treat substance use disorders;

18 (ii) the procedures at facilities designed to treat substance use  
19 disorders for the discharge of patients;

20 (iii) the reasons patients assessed as needing inpatient treatment for  
21 the treatment of substance use disorders are discharged from treatment facilities; and

22 (iv) patient abandonment practices at facilities designed to treat  
23 substance use disorders; and

24 (2) make recommendations regarding:

25 (i) any changes that may be necessary to improve patient treatment  
26 practices and patient discharge practices at facilities designed to treat substance use  
27 disorders;

28 (ii) training for staff members at facilities designed to treat  
29 substance use disorders that could help mitigate any risks associated with early patient  
30 discharge; and

1                   (iii) whether facilities designed to treat substance use disorders  
2 should be required to report on the frequency of early patient discharge.

3           (g) On or before January 1, 2019, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
4 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
5 Government Article, the General Assembly.

6           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
7 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June  
8 30, 2019, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be  
9 abrogated and of no further force and effect.