

Chapter 789

(House Bill 1245)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force on the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority; providing for the composition, chair, staffing, and purpose 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 consult with certain entities and study and make recommendations on certain matters; requiring the Department of General Services to conduct a certain appraisal for a certain purpose; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; defining a certain term; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority.

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

(a) In this section, “Authority” means the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority.

(b) There is a Task Force on the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority.

(c) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) the Chair of the Authority, or the Chair’s designee;

(2) a member of the Allegany County Delegation to the General Assembly, appointed by the Chair of the Allegany County Delegation;

(3) the Mayor of the City of Cumberland, or the Mayor’s designee;

(4) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary’s designee;

(5) the Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary’s designee; and

(6) the Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary’s designee; and

(7) a current leaseholder at the Shops at Canal Place, appointed by the Executive Director of the Authority.

(d) The Task Force shall elect a chair of the Task Force from among its members.

(e) The Department of Planning shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(f) 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.

(g) (1) The purpose of the Task Force is to determine how to alter the powers of the Authority as a State agency established under Title 13, Subtitle 10 of the Financial Institutions Article in order to align the mission and purpose of the Canal Place Heritage Area with that of other certified heritage areas under Title 13, Subtitle 11 of the Financial Institutions Article.

(2) The Task Force shall, at a minimum:

(i) determine the most feasible method to restructure or continue the operations of the Authority as a State entity;

(ii) determine the best method for the disposition of the assets of the Authority, which may include:

1. the transfer of all or part of the assets to another State agency under § 10–304 of the State Finance and Procurement Article; and

2. the sale and transfer of all or part of the assets to a private entity, which must provide the current leaseholders of the Shops at Canal Place with a right of first refusal on the sale or transfer of the Shops at Canal Place; and

(iii) determine the best method for the transfer of all leases held and maintained by the Authority;

(iv) examine the effect of the Task Force’s recommendations on State employees at the Authority;

(v) examine the costs associated with the dissolution of the Authority;

(vi) consult with the United States Department of the Interior and other applicable federal entities regarding the disposition of Authority assets;

(vii) undertake any other studies or examinations deemed necessary;
and

(viii) recommend draft legislation to implement the conclusions of the Task Force.

(3) (i) In order to carry out the Task Force's duties, on or before August 1, 2018, the Department of General Services shall conduct an independent appraisal on the property owned and maintained by the Authority.

(ii) The appraisal required under this paragraph shall be used to issue a Request for Expressions of Interest to determine the external interest in the purchase of any or all assets managed by the Authority.

(h) On or before June 1, 2019, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and, at the end of August 31, 2019, 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.