

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 444

(Senator Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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**Task Force on the Social Determinants of Health in Baltimore City**

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This bill establishes the Task Force on the Social Determinants of Health in Baltimore City and an associated advisory board. The University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus must provide staff support for the task force. By December 1 each year, the task force must submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill codifies an existing task force.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to impact Baltimore City finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** 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. The task force must (1) identify and examine the negative social factors that are causing hardship for residents of Baltimore City, are cyclical in nature, and span generations and (2) develop and implement solutions to improve the circumstances in which residents of Baltimore City live, work, play, and worship.

The task force must include five specified subcommittees and must consult with the Office of Minority Health and Disparities. The task force may apply for grants from public and private entities to carry out its duties.

The advisory board must (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.

Members of the task force and advisory board may not receive compensation; however, members of the advisory committee are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

**Current Law/Background:** The World Health Organization defines “social determinants of health” as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age that are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources at global, national, and local levels and are mostly responsible for health inequities (*i.e.*, the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries).

An existing Social Determinants of Health Task Force for the 44<sup>th</sup> Legislative District was established in February 2015, and is a multisector collaborative action group comprised of community organizations, government representatives, academics, urban planners, entrepreneurs, and health care system leaders. The bill effectively codifies the structure and purpose of this task force.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** World Health Organization; Baltimore City; University System of Maryland; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 7, 2018  
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