

SENATE BILL 966

E4

9lr3245

By: **Senator Ellis**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2019

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Effectiveness of State Crime Laboratories**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Effectiveness of State Crime
4 Laboratories; 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 regarding certain matters; requiring the Task
8 Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
9 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and
10 generally relating to the Task Force on the Effectiveness of State Crime
11 Laboratories.

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

13 That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force on the Effectiveness of State Crime Laboratories.

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

16 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
17 the Senate;

18 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;

21 (4) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;

22 (5) the Attorney General of the State, or the Attorney General's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (6) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
2 Secretary's designee; and

3 (7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

4 (i) one representative of the Maryland State Police Forensic
5 Sciences Division;

6 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association;

7 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Chiefs of Police;

8 (iv) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorney's
9 Association;

10 (v) one representative of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender;

11 (vi) two representatives of county crime or forensic science
12 laboratories; and

13 (vii) one representative of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and
14 Prevention.

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

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

18 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

22 (f) The Task Force shall:

23 (1) investigate the effectiveness of crime laboratories in the State,
24 including:

25 (i) current laboratory technical capabilities;

26 (ii) staffing levels;

27 (iii) the length of time taken to process evidence; and

28 (iv) how the State compares with other states on the issues in items

1 (i), (ii), and (iii) of this item;

2 (2) identify shortcomings or inefficiencies in the current system of crime
3 laboratories; and

4 (3) make recommendations regarding how crime laboratories can be
5 improved and modernized, including:

6 (i) the need, if any, to update and acquire more technology and
7 increase the number of staff or specialists; and

8 (ii) procedural changes needed to improve operational efficiency.

9 (g) On or before January 1, 2021, the Task Force shall report its findings and
10 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
11 Government Article, the General Assembly.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2021,
14 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
15 of no further force and effect.