

# HOUSE BILL 548

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By: **Delegates Guzzone, Fair, Hill, Kerr, R. Lewis, and Ruth**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic  
4 Substances to study and make recommendations related to the use of natural  
5 psychedelic substances; and generally relating to the Task Force on Responsible Use  
6 of Natural Psychedelic Substances.

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

9 (a) (1) In this section, “natural psychedelic substances” means naturally  
10 derived psilocybin, psilocin, dimethyltryptamine, and mescaline.

11 (2) “Natural psychedelic substances” does not include peyote.

12 (b) There is a Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances.

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

14 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland:

15 (i) one of which shall be appointed by the President of the Senate;  
16 and

17 (ii) one of which shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
18 Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates:

20 (i) one of which shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (ii) one of which shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
2 House;
- 3 (3) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;
- 4 (4) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;
- 5 (5) the Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee;
- 6 (6) the Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- 7 (7) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;
- 8 (8) the Executive Director of the Maryland Cannabis Administration, or  
9 the Executive Director's designee; and
- 10 (9) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 11 (i) one representative of the University System of Maryland or the  
12 Johns Hopkins University's Center for Psychedelic and Consciousness Research;
- 13 (ii) one representative of a federally recognized Native American  
14 tribe in the State;
- 15 (iii) one individual with expertise in public health;
- 16 (iv) one individual with expertise in behavioral health;
- 17 (v) one individual with expertise in the treatment of substance use  
18 disorders;
- 19 (vi) one individual with expertise in the treatment of chronic pain;
- 20 (vii) one individual with expertise in psychedelic-assisted  
21 psychotherapy;
- 22 (viii) one individual with expertise in psychedelic research;
- 23 (ix) one individual with expertise in access to care in underserved  
24 communities;
- 25 (x) one individual with expertise in harm reduction strategies for  
26 individuals with a substance use disorder;
- 27 (xi) one individual with expertise in drug policy reform;
- 28 (xii) one individual with expertise in the religious and spiritual use of

1 psychedelic substances;

2 (xiii) one individual with expertise as a member of law enforcement;

3 and

4 (xiv) two individuals who are patients with conditions that can be  
5 treated with psychedelic substances.

6 (d) To the extent practicable, the membership of the Task Force shall reflect the  
7 socioeconomic, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State.

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

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

10 (g) 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 (h) The Task Force shall:

15 (1) study:

16 (i) existing laws, policies, and practices relating to the use of natural  
17 psychedelic substances;

18 (ii) the best available science and data on public benefits of  
19 responsible access to and use of natural psychedelic substances;

20 (iii) opportunities to maximize public benefits of responsible access to  
21 and use of natural psychedelic substances;

22 (iv) the best available data on potential risks of access to and use of  
23 natural psychedelic substances;

24 (v) opportunities to mitigate potential risks of access to and use of  
25 natural psychedelic substances; and

26 (vi) barriers health care practitioners and facilitators may encounter  
27 relating to natural psychedelic substances, including barriers relating to insurance,  
28 restrictions by licensing and credentialing entities, zoning, advertising, and financial  
29 services;

30 (2) make recommendations regarding any changes to State law, policy, and

1 practices needed to create a Maryland Natural Psychedelic Substance Access Program;

2 (3) make recommendations to establish requirements for a Natural  
3 Psychedelic Permit, including:

4 (i) educational curricula to ensure the safe use of natural  
5 psychedelic substances, including curricula relating to the testing of, proper dosage of, and  
6 usage setting for such substances;

7 (ii) learning assessments to ensure knowledge, skills, and abilities  
8 gained by Natural Psychedelic Permit applicants before the issuance of a permit;

9 (iii) existing infrastructure that may be used for the delivery of  
10 educational and testing material;

11 (iv) existing organizations and groups willing and able to develop  
12 educational curricula and learning assessments; and

13 (v) quantities of natural psychedelic substances that Natural  
14 Psychedelic Permit holders may possess, use, grow, and gift without supervision;

15 (4) make recommendations for therapeutic and licensed support for adult  
16 use of natural psychedelic substances, allowing individuals the ability to obtain treatment  
17 involving the use of psychedelic materials under the supervision and guidance of  
18 experienced, trained, and licensed therapists and facilitators;

19 (5) make recommendations for establishing requirements related to the  
20 production of natural psychedelic substances, including:

21 (i) regulations for growing natural psychedelic substances in  
22 accordance with agricultural safety standards; and

23 (ii) testing and packaging requirements for products containing  
24 natural psychedelic substances with clear and accurate labeling of potency;

25 (6) make recommendations for the sale and taxation of natural psychedelic  
26 substances, including:

27 (i) restricting the sales of natural psychedelic substances to Natural  
28 Psychedelic Permit holders;

29 (ii) systems for the sale and reasonable taxation of natural  
30 psychedelic substances to cover the cost of a Maryland Natural Psychedelic Substance  
31 Access Program;

32 (iii) systems to support statewide online sales of natural psychedelic  
33 substances with home delivery; and

1 (iv) options for retail stores that sell natural psychedelic substances  
2 in communities in the State and opt to participate in the online sale and home delivery of  
3 the substances; and

4 (7) make recommendations to transition from criminalizing conduct  
5 involving natural psychedelic substances, including:

6 (i) punishing with civil penalties nonviolent infractions involving  
7 the planting, cultivating, purchasing, transporting, distributing, or possessing of or other  
8 engagement with natural psychedelic substances;

9 (ii) expunging the records of Marylanders with convictions for  
10 nonviolent criminal offenses relating to natural psychedelic substances; and

11 (iii) releasing Marylanders incarcerated for nonviolent criminal  
12 offenses relating to natural psychedelic substances.

13 (i) On or before December 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a report of its  
14 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the  
15 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
17 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2026,  
18 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
19 of no further force and effect.