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**By: Senators Young, Blount, McFadden, Hughes, Kelley, Hoffman, and Pica**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on African American Entrepreneurship in Baltimore City**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on African American Entrepreneurship in  
4 Baltimore City; providing for the composition, chairman, reimbursement, and  
5 staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to conduct a certain  
6 examination and formulate a certain strategic plan concerning entrepreneurial  
7 opportunities for African Americans in Baltimore City; authorizing the Task Force  
8 to exercise certain powers; requiring the Task Force to make a certain report on or  
9 before a certain date; terminating this Act after a certain date; and generally  
10 relating to a Task Force on African American Entrepreneurship in Baltimore City.

11 BY adding to

12 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
13 Section 18-310  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, The 1990 federal census indicates that African Americans currently  
18 comprise nearly 60 percent of the population of Baltimore City; and

19 WHEREAS, A directory prepared by the Mayor's Office notes that African  
20 Americans in Baltimore City own only 1 hotel, 3 office buildings, 13 restaurants, 24 retail  
21 stores, 20 professional service businesses, 18 personal service businesses, and 11 business  
22 services in the downtown area; and

23 WHEREAS, Although African Americans are the majority population of Baltimore  
24 City, the number of businesses owned by African Americans in Baltimore City is  
25 disproportionately low; and

26 WHEREAS, The establishment of a business climate in Baltimore City that is more  
27 receptive to entrepreneurial opportunities for African Americans is both necessary and  
28 desirable; and

29 WHEREAS, A strategic plan should be formulated to create more entrepreneurial  
30 opportunities for African Americans in Baltimore City; now, therefore,

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1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

4 18-310.

5 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN  
6 BALTIMORE CITY.

7 (B) THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE COMPOSED OF NINE MEMBERS APPOINTED AS  
8 FOLLOWS:

9 (1) TWO BALTIMORE CITY MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
10 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

11 (2) TWO BALTIMORE CITY MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
12 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND

13 (3) FIVE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC APPOINTED BY THE  
14 GOVERNOR IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE.

15 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TASK FORCE.

16 (D) THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR  
17 THE TASK FORCE.

18 (E) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE:

19 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION; BUT

20 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE  
21 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

22 (F) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

23 (1) EXAMINE THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF CURRENTLY AVAILABLE  
24 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN  
25 BALTIMORE CITY;

26 (2) STUDY HOW ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICAN  
27 AMERICANS IN BALTIMORE CITY CAN BE INCREASED TO A LEVEL THAT IS MORE  
28 PROPORTIONATE FOR A CITY THAT HAS A MAJORITY POPULATION OF AFRICAN  
29 AMERICANS; AND

30 (3) FORMULATE A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CREATION OF GREATER  
31 ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN BALTIMORE  
32 CITY.

33 (G) THE TASK FORCE MAY:

34 (1) REVIEW THE EFFORTS OF OTHER STATES AND CITIES TO STUDY  
35 AND ADDRESS THIS ISSUE;

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1                   (2) CONSULT WITH OUTSIDE EXPERTS CONCERNING  
2 ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN BALTIMORE  
3 CITY;

4                   (3) RECEIVE TESTIMONY THAT THE TASK FORCE CONSIDERS  
5 APPROPRIATE; AND

6                   (4) DEVELOP ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT IT CONSIDERS  
7 APPROPRIATE FOR CHANGES IN STATUTES, REGULATIONS, ORGANIZATION, OR  
8 PROCEDURES.

9                   (H) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30, 1997, THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT ITS  
10 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO:

11                   (1) THE GOVERNOR;

12                   (2) SUBJECT TO § 2-1312 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE  
13 GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND

14                   (3) THE MAYOR OF BALTIMORE.

15                   (I) THIS SECTION SHALL TERMINATE AND BE OF NO EFFECT AFTER APRIL 30,  
16 1997.

17                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 July 1, 1996.