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

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 1996

CHAPTER ____

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

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1 WHEREAS, Although African Americans are the majority population of Baltimore
2 City, the number of businesses owned by African Americans in Baltimore City is
3 disproportionately low; and

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

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

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

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

12 18-310.

13 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN
14 BALTIMORE CITY.

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

17 (1) TWO BALTIMORE CITY MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
18 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

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

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

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

24 (D) THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR
25 THE TASK FORCE.

26 (E) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE:

27 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION; BUT

28 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES ~~UNDER THE~~
29 ~~STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET, TO~~
30 THE EXTENT FUNDS RECEIVED FROM BALTIMORE CITY AND PRIVATE
31 CONTRIBUTORS ARE AVAILABLE.

32 (F) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

33 (1) EXAMINE THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF CURRENTLY AVAILABLE
34 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN
35 BALTIMORE CITY;

36 (2) STUDY HOW ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICAN
37 AMERICANS IN BALTIMORE CITY CAN BE INCREASED TO A LEVEL THAT IS MORE

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1 PROPORTIONATE FOR A CITY THAT HAS A MAJORITY POPULATION OF AFRICAN
2 AMERICANS; AND

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

6 (G) THE TASK FORCE MAY:

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

9 (2) CONSULT WITH OUTSIDE EXPERTS CONCERNING
10 ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN BALTIMORE
11 CITY;

12 (3) RECEIVE TESTIMONY THAT THE TASK FORCE CONSIDERS
13 APPROPRIATE; AND

14 (4) DEVELOP ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT IT CONSIDERS
15 APPROPRIATE FOR CHANGES IN STATUTES, REGULATIONS, ORGANIZATION, OR
16 PROCEDURES.

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

19 (1) THE GOVERNOR;

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

22 (3) THE MAYOR OF BALTIMORE.

23 (I) THIS SECTION SHALL TERMINATE AND BE OF NO EFFECT AFTER APRIL 30,
24 1997.

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