

HOUSE BILL 62

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1999 Regular Session  
9r0944  
CF 9r1542

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By: **Delegates Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, and Menes**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 1999

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 9, 1999

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Task Force to Study Increasing the Availability of Substance Abuse**  
3                                   **Programs - Extension of Time to Issue Final Report**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the date requiring the Task Force to Study Increasing  
5 the Availability of Substance Abuse Programs to issue a final report.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
8 Section 18-316  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

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

14 18-316.

15 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Increasing the Availability of Substance  
16 Abuse Programs.

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

18 (1) Two members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of  
19 the House, one of whom shall be the Chairman of the House Special Committee on  
20 Drug and Alcohol Abuse or another member of that committee designated by the  
21 Chairman;

- 1 (2) Two members of the Senate of Maryland appointed by the President  
2 of the Senate;
- 3 (3) One representative of the Department of Health and Mental  
4 Hygiene;
- 5 (4) One representative from the Department of Human Resources;
- 6 (5) The Attorney General or a designee of the Attorney General;
- 7 (6) One licensed physician with experience working in a substance abuse  
8 program;
- 9 (7) One registered nurse with experience working in a substance abuse  
10 program;
- 11 (8) One licensed social worker with experience working in a substance  
12 abuse program;
- 13 (9) One licensed psychologist with experience working in a substance  
14 abuse program;
- 15 (10) One representative from a county substance abuse program;
- 16 (11) One representative from a city substance abuse program;
- 17 (12) One representative from the Maryland Association of Social Service  
18 Directors;
- 19 (13) One former addict;
- 20 (14) One police officer;
- 21 (15) One representative of the Department of Corrections;
- 22 (16) One representative of the Department of Juvenile Justice;
- 23 (17) One representative of the Office for Children, Youth, and Families;
- 24 (18) One representative of hospitals in the State;
- 25 (19) One operator from a substance abuse program; and
- 26 (20) One experienced addictions counselor.
- 27 (c) The Governor shall appoint the Chairperson of the Task Force.
- 28 (d) The Task Force shall develop a comprehensive strategy for increasing the  
29 funding and the availability of substance abuse programs in the State by:

1 (1) Examining the scope of the problem of substance abuse in the State,  
2 and the number of substance abuse programs that exist to address the problem;

3 (2) Collecting data to determine the correlation between substance abuse  
4 and the commission of crimes;

5 (3) Determining the extent to which the substance abuse programs are  
6 accessible to those addicted to drugs and alcohol who seek treatment;

7 (4) Determining the amount of funding currently available for substance  
8 abuse programs;

9 (5) Taking any other action necessary and proper to carry out the  
10 purpose of this section;

11 (6) Examining the availability of substance abuse programs designed for  
12 women, pregnant women, and women with children, as well as the outcomes of these  
13 programs in relation to the length of stay;

14 (7) Examining the health insurance coverage available in the State for  
15 substance abuse treatment;

16 (8) Making recommendations to increase the availability of substance  
17 abuse programs, both short-term and long-term;

18 (9) Examining the reasons for public opposition to substance abuse  
19 programs; and

20 (10) Making recommendations to decrease public opposition to substance  
21 abuse programs to ensure that substance abuse programs are accessible throughout  
22 the State to those addicted to drugs who seek treatment.

23 (e) Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation except that  
24 the members may be reimbursed for expenses under the Standard State Travel  
25 Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

26 (f) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in cooperation with other  
27 appropriate State and local units, shall provide staff support for the Task Force to the  
28 extent possible within existing budgeted resources.

29 (g) The Task Force shall issue a final report of its findings, recommendations,  
30 and comprehensive strategy to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State  
31 Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before January 1, [2000] 2001.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
33 October 1, 1999.

