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By: **Delegates Shriver and Conroy**  
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000  
Assigned to: Economic Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Task Force to Study Employment Barriers Facing Individuals with**  
3                                   **Disabilities**

4 FOR the purpose of creating the Task Force to Study Employment Barriers Facing  
5 Individuals with Disabilities; providing for the appointment, membership, chair,  
6 staff, and duties of the Task Force; requiring the members to be appointed by a  
7 certain date; requiring the Task Force to have its first meeting by a certain date;  
8 requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and to the General Assembly  
9 on certain dates; providing for the termination of the Task Force; and generally  
10 relating to the Task Force to Study Employment Barriers Facing Individuals  
11 with Disabilities.

12 BY adding to  
13 Article - Labor and Employment  
14 Section 3-901 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 9. Task Force to Study  
15 Employment Barriers Facing Individuals with Disabilities"  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (1999 Replacement Volume)

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

20                                   **Article - Labor and Employment**

21                                   **SUBTITLE 9. TASK FORCE TO STUDY EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS FACING INDIVIDUALS**  
22                                   **WITH DISABILITIES.**

23 3-901.

24 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS FACING  
25 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

26 (B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING 20 MEMBERS:

1 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE  
2 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

3 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE  
4 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

5 (3) THREE REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, AS  
6 FOLLOWS:

7 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PUBLIC; AND

8 (II) TWO REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE INDIVIDUALS WITH A  
9 DISABILITY WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS;

10 (4) THE SECRETARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR  
11 THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

12 (5) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION OR THE STATE  
13 SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

14 (6) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE OR THE  
15 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

16 (7) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES OR THE SECRETARY'S  
17 DESIGNEE;

18 (8) THE SECRETARY OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION OR THE  
19 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

20 (9) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION OR THE SECRETARY'S  
21 DESIGNEE;

22 (10) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDER  
23 AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR ADULTS  
24 WITH DISABILITIES WHO EXPERIENCE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS;

25 (11) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION  
26 INSTITUTION;

27 (12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF MARYLAND WORKS, INC.;

28 (13) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE;

29 (14) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND CHAMBER OF  
30 COMMERCE; AND

31 (15) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE  
32 INVESTMENT BOARD.

33 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TASK FORCE  
34 FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

1 (D) THE TASK FORCE SHALL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON OR BEFORE  
2 SEPTEMBER 1, 2000.

3 (E) THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION SHALL  
4 PROVIDE STAFF TO THE TASK FORCE.

5 (F) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

6 (1) STUDY DATA AND OTHER RESEARCH MAINTAINED BY THE STATE,  
7 OTHER STATES, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT RELATES TO THE  
8 EMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO  
9 HAVE EXPERIENCED EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS;

10 (2) DETERMINE AND ASSESS THE FACTORS, INCLUDING PUBLIC  
11 POLICIES AND ECONOMIC, EMPLOYER, ATTITUDINAL, AND DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS,  
12 THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE HIGH RATE OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT AMONG  
13 MARYLANDERS WITH DISABILITIES WHO EXPERIENCE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS;

14 (3) ASSESS THE NEEDS OF EMPLOYERS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH  
15 DISABILITIES WHO EXPERIENCE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS, INCLUDING THE NEED  
16 FOR SUPPORT MECHANISMS;

17 (4) DETERMINE METHODS TO STIMULATE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC  
18 PARTNERSHIPS DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE EMPLOYMENT RATE OF INDIVIDUALS  
19 WITH DISABILITIES WHO EXPERIENCE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS;

20 (5) WORK TO DETERMINE WAYS TO INCREASE THE EMPLOYMENT  
21 OPPORTUNITIES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO EXPERIENCE  
22 EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS BY WORKING WITH:

23 (I) THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY;

24 (II) COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDERS OF TRAINING AND  
25 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES; AND

26 (III) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT;

27 (6) HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS, AS DETERMINED NECESSARY BY THE TASK  
28 FORCE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING INFORMATION AND DATA; AND

29 (7) DEVELOP ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE TASK FORCE  
30 CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE FOR CHANGES IN STATUTES AND REGULATIONS AND  
31 GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES THAT WILL ASSIST IN  
32 LOWERING THE HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES  
33 WHO EXPERIENCE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS.

34 (G) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR AND ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30,  
35 2002, THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
36 THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO  
37 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the members of the Task  
2 Force shall be appointed on or before August 1, 2000.

3 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 July 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June  
5 30, 2002, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
6 abrogated and of no further force and effect.