
By: **Delegates Cane, Nathan-Pulliam, and Oaks**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Health Care Needs of Inmates in Transition from**
3 **Correctional Institutions**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a task force to study the health care needs of inmates
5 in transition from correctional institutions; providing for the membership,
6 duties, and staffing of the task force; requiring the task force to issue a report by
7 a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
8 to the establishment of a task force to study the health care needs of inmates in
9 transition from correctional institutions.

10 BY adding to
11 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
12 Section 18-318
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

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

18 18-318.

19 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF INMATES
20 IN TRANSITION FROM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

21 (B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

22 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTED BY THE
23 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

24 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY THE
25 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

26 (3) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
27 MENTAL HYGIENE;

- 1 (4) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS;
- 2 (5) ONE LICENSED PHYSICIAN WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH
3 RELEASED INMATES IN TRANSITION;
- 4 (6) ONE REGISTERED NURSE WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH
5 RELEASED INMATES IN TRANSITION;
- 6 (7) ONE LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH
7 RELEASED INMATES IN TRANSITION;
- 8 (8) ONE LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH
9 RELEASED INMATES IN TRANSITION;
- 10 (9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE
11 PROGRAM;
- 12 (10) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A BALTIMORE CITY SUBSTANCE ABUSE
13 PROGRAM;
- 14 (11) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A COUNTY HEALTH CLINIC PROGRAM;
- 15 (12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH CLINIC
16 PROGRAM;
- 17 (13) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF
18 SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORS;
- 19 (14) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF HOSPITALS IN THE STATE;
- 20 (15) ONE FORMER INMATE;
- 21 (16) ONE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER;
- 22 (17) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE;
23 AND
- 24 (18) ONE EXPERIENCED ADDICTIONS COUNSELOR.
- 25 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE.
- 26 (D) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF INMATES IN
27 TRANSITION FROM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY:
- 28 (1) EXAMINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM OF RELEASED INMATES
29 WITH HEALTH CARE NEEDS IN THE STATE, AND THE NUMBER OF HEALTH CARE
30 PROGRAMS THAT EXIST TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM;
- 31 (2) COLLECTING DATA TO DETERMINE THE CORRELATION BETWEEN
32 HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF RELEASED INMATES WITH DIABETES, HIV, SUBSTANCE

1 ABUSE ADDICTION, AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES, AND THE COMMISSION
2 OF CRIMES;

3 (3) DETERMINING THE EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS
4 ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THOSE RELEASED INMATES WITH DIABETES, HIV, SUBSTANCE
5 ABUSE ADDICTION, AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES WHO SEEK
6 TREATMENT;

7 (4) EXAMINING THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS
8 DESIGNED FOR RECENTLY RELEASED INMATES, AS WELL AS THE OUTCOMES OF
9 THOSE PROGRAMS IN RELATION TO THE LENGTH OF STAY;

10 (5) EXAMINING THE AVAILABILITY OF MEDICATION FOR RECENTLY
11 RELEASED INMATES WITH DIABETES, HIV, SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADDICTION, AND
12 SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES;

13 (6) EXAMINING THE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AVAILABLE IN THE
14 STATE FOR TREATMENT OF RECENTLY RELEASED INMATES WITH HEALTH CARE
15 NEEDS;

16 (7) MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF
17 HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS FOR RECENTLY RELEASED INMATES, BOTH SHORT-TERM
18 AND LONG-TERM; AND

19 (8) TAKING ANY OTHER ACTION NECESSARY AND PROPER TO CARRY
20 OUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION.

21 (E) MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION
22 EXCEPT THAT THE MEMBERS MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
23 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

24 (F) THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, IN COOPERATION
25 WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE STATE AND LOCAL UNITS, SHALL PROVIDE STAFF
26 SUPPORT FOR THE TASK FORCE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITHIN EXISTING
27 BUDGETED RESOURCES.

28 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS,
29 RECOMMENDATIONS, AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO THE GOVERNOR AND,
30 SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL
31 ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2001.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 July 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the
34 end of December 31, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
35 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.