

SENATE BILL 131

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2004 Regular Session
4lr0635

By: **Senators Teitelbaum, Astle, Della, Exum, Garagiola, Hafer, Hooper,
Kelley, Klausmeier, and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2004

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Compare the Maryland Health Insurance Market to Adjacent**
3 **States**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to compare the Maryland Health
5 Insurance Market to adjacent states; establishing the membership of the Task
6 Force; providing for staffing of the Task Force; providing that a member of the
7 Task Force is entitled to reimbursement for expenses; establishing the duties of
8 the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and
9 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a
10 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
11 the Task Force to compare the Maryland Health Insurance Market to adjacent
12 states.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That:

15 (a) There is a Task Force to compare the Maryland Health Insurance Market
16 to adjacent states.

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

18 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
19 of the Senate;

20 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
21 the House;

22 (3) a representative of a health insurance carrier providing health
23 insurance coverage in the State, appointed by the Governor;

24 (4) two insurance producers who are licensed in the State, appointed by
25 the Governor;

26 (5) three consumers, appointed by the Governor.

1 (c) The executive director of the Maryland Health Care Commission shall
2 chair the Task Force.

3 (d) The Maryland Health Care Commission shall provide staff for the Task
4 Force within existing budgeted resources.

5 (e) A member of the Task Force:

6 (1) may not receive compensation; but

7 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
8 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

9 (f) The Task Force shall study:

10 (1) ways to improve access to affordable private health insurance for
11 residents of the State;

12 (2) the types and cost of health insurance policies offered in Delaware,
13 the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia;

14 (3) the number of health insurance carriers operating in Delaware, the
15 District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia;

16 (4) laws and state policies that allow health insurance carriers in
17 Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West
18 Virginia to offer more than one health insurance benefit package or product in the
19 small group health insurance market and the individual health insurance market;

20 (5) the number of mandated benefits required by state law in Delaware,
21 the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia;

22 (6) the average health insurance premiums and cost sharing for policies
23 subject to state regulation offered in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland,
24 Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia;

25 (7) the types of pre-existing condition limitations required by state law
26 for health insurance carriers offering health insurance policies offered in Delaware,
27 the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; and

28 (8) any other issues the Task Force deems appropriate to encourage
29 companies not currently doing business in the State to consider providing private
30 health insurance in the State.

31 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
32 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
33 Assembly on or before December 1, 2004.

34 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
35 July 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of

1 December 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
2 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.