

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Boschert**

Requested: September 13, 2004

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2005

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Task Force to Study Establishing a Veterans' Home at the Former**  
3                                   **Crownsville Hospital**

4 FOR the purpose of creating a task force to study certain issues related to  
5 establishing a veterans' home on the grounds of the former Crownsville  
6 Hospital; prohibiting the transfer or disposition of facilities or property  
7 associated with the former Crownsville Hospital until after the consideration of  
8 task force recommendations by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;  
9 making this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of the  
10 task force; and generally relating to a task force to study the establishment of a  
11 veterans' home at the former Crownsville Hospital.

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

14       (a)       There is a Task Force to Study Establishing a Veterans' Home at the  
15 Former Crownsville Hospital.

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

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

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

21               (3)       the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;

22               (4)       the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's  
23 designee;

24               (5)       the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's  
25 designee;

26               (6)       the County Executive of Anne Arundel County, or the County  
27 Executive's designee; and

1 (7) four representatives selected from the following veterans'  
2 organizations, appointed by the Governor:

3 (i) the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.;

4 (ii) the American Legion;

5 (iii) the Amvets;

6 (iv) the Catholic War Veterans;

7 (v) the Disabled American Veterans;

8 (vi) the Fleet Reserve Association;

9 (vii) the Jewish War Veterans;

10 (viii) the Marine Corps League;

11 (ix) the Maryland Retired Officers Association;

12 (x) the Military Order of the Purple Heart;

13 (xi) the Veterans of Foreign Wars;

14 (xii) the Vietnam Veterans of America;

15 (xiii) the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.;

16 (xiv) the Black Veterans of All Wars, Inc.; and

17 (xv) the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

18 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

19 (d) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide staff for the Task Force.

20 (e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on  
21 the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
22 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

23 (f) The Task Force shall:

24 (1) examine issues pertaining to the feasibility of establishing a  
25 veterans' home on the grounds of the former Crownsville Hospital, including:

26 (i) the need for a veterans' home in Anne Arundel County;

27 (ii) the costs associated with converting facilities at the former  
28 Crownsville Hospital to a veterans' home;

1 (iii) developing a long-term plan to offer on-site outpatient and  
2 psychiatric care to veterans; and

3 (iv) any issues related to creating a veterans' home on the grounds  
4 of the former Crownsville Hospital.

5 (2) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
6 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the  
7 General Assembly on or before December 31, 2005.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of  
9 Health and Mental Hygiene may not transfer ownership or dispose of any facility or  
10 property associated with the former Crownsville Hospital until the recommendations  
11 of the Task Force have been considered.

12 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall  
13 take effect July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the  
14 end of December 31, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
15 Section 1 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

16 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
17 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,  
18 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members  
19 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly and, except as provided in  
20 Section 3 of this Act, shall take effect from the date it is enacted.