
By: **Delegate McDonough**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2006

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Uncompensated Health Care in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Uncompensated Health Care
4 in Maryland; providing for the composition of the Task Force; requiring the
5 Governor to designate the chair of the Task Force; providing for the staffing of
6 the Task Force; prohibiting a member from receiving certain compensation;
7 authorizing a member to receive certain reimbursement; establishing the duties
8 of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report its findings to the Governor
9 and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of
10 this Act; and generally relating to a Task Force to Study Uncompensated Health
11 Care in Maryland.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Uncompensated Health Care in Maryland.

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

16 (1) five members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
17 of the Senate;

18 (2) five members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
21 designee;

22 (4) five members, appointed by the Governor, who are experts in the
23 field of health care policy; and

24 (5) five consumer members, appointed by the Governor.

25 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

26 (d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of
27 Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

1 (e) A member of the Task Force:

2 (1) may not receive compensation; but

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

5 (f) The Task Force shall:

6 (1) study the impact of uncompensated health care on health care
7 providers in the State;

8 (2) study the effect of uncompensated health care on the cost of health
9 care in the State;

10 (3) ascertain the amount and cost of services that health care
11 practitioners and institutions provide to uninsured individuals; and

12 (4) make recommendations regarding legislation to address problems
13 documented by the Task Force.

14 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
15 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
16 General Assembly, on or before October 1, 2006.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
19 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
20 abrogated and of no further force and effect.