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By: Delegates Shank, Frank, Kelly, McComas, McKee, Morhaim, Shewell, and Weldon

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

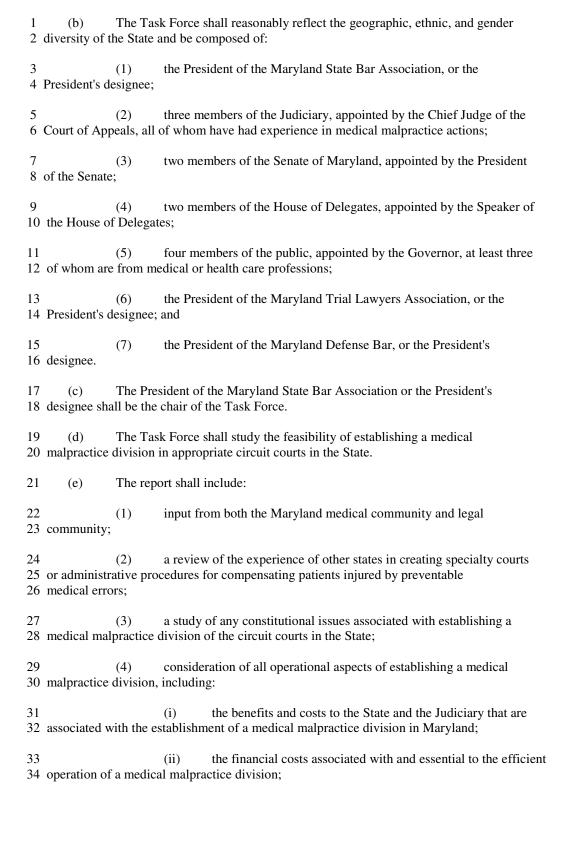
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1	ΔN	A("I	concerning
	7 11 1	1101	Concerning

2 Circuit Courts - Medical Malpractice Division - Task Force

- 3 FOR the purpose of stating the intent of the General Assembly that medical
- 4 malpractice matters be treated in a particular manner in the judicial system
- 5 and that the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals consider, based on a certain
- 6 study, the feasibility of the establishment of a medical malpractice court division
- 7 in the State; establishing the Medical Malpractice Division Task Force;
- 8 providing for the membership of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to
- 9 study the feasibility of creating a medical malpractice division in appropriate
- 10 circuit courts and issue a certain report by a certain date; providing that the
- 11 report include certain input and information and be submitted to certain
- persons; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the
- establishment of a task force to study and issue a certain report concerning the
- 14 feasibility of the establishment of medical malpractice divisions in the circuit
- 15 courts.
- 16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 17 MARYLAND, That:
- 18 It is the intent of the General Assembly that:
- 19 (1) medical malpractice actions be treated efficiently and effectively in 20 the judicial system; and
- 21 (2) the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals consider the feasibility of the
- 22 establishment of a medical malpractice division in Maryland, based on a study to be
- 23 completed by the Medical Malpractice Division Task Force, in order to enable the
- 24 circuit courts to handle medical malpractice actions in the most coordinated, efficient,
- 25 and responsive manner and to afford convenient access to lawyers and litigants
- 26 involved in medical malpractice actions.
- 27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:
- 28 (a) There is a Medical Malpractice Division Task Force.



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	(iii) the criteria for determining the type and monetary thresholds of matters to be assigned and the procedures for assignment of matters to a medical malpractice division;		
4 5	(iv) the level of expertise and training of judges presiding in a medical malpractice division;		
6 7	(v) a case management plan for the prompt and efficient scheduling and disposition of matters assigned to a medical malpractice division;		
8	(vi) the use of alternative dispute resolution; and		
9 10	(vii) the feasibility of establishing an expedited appeals process for matters assigned to a medical malpractice division; and		
	(5) any other matters the Task Force considers relevant to its consideration of the feasibility of establishing a medical malpractice division in the circuit courts.		
16 17 18	The Task Force shall issue a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Court of Appeals, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the President of the Senate of Maryland, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the House Judiciary Committee, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before June 1, 2007.		
20	SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect		

- June 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.