
By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2006

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Joint Legislative Task Force on Universal Access to Quality and Affordable**
3 **Health Care - Extension and Modifications**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the termination provisions relating to the Joint
5 Legislative Task Force on Universal Access to Quality and Affordable Health
6 Care; authorizing additional nonvoting members of the Task Force, subject to
7 certain approval; authorizing the Task Force to appoint subcommittees for a
8 certain purpose; delaying the due date for the Task Force report; making certain
9 stylistic changes; and generally relating to the extension and modifications of
10 the Joint Legislative Task Force on Universal Access to Quality and Affordable
11 Health Care.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Chapter 280 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005
14 Section 5 and 14

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

17 **Chapter 280 of the Acts of 2005**

18 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

19 (a) There is a Joint Legislative Task Force on Universal Access to Quality and
20 Affordable Health Care.

21 (b) The Task Force is comprised of six members of the General Assembly, who
22 shall be voting members of the Task Force, including:

23 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
24 of the Senate; and

25 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
26 of the House.

1 (c) The following individuals shall serve as nonvoting members of the Task
2 Force:

3 (1) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
4 designee; [and]

5 (2) the Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission, or
6 the Executive Director's designee; AND

7 (3) ANY ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE
8 VOTING MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE.

9 (d) (1) Of the three members of the Senate, the President of the Senate shall
10 appoint one member to serve as a cochair[; and].

11 (2) [of] OF the three members of the House of Delegates, the Speaker of
12 the House shall appoint one member to serve as a cochair.

13 (e) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task
14 Force.

15 (f) The Task Force shall:

16 (1) study and make recommendations on how to make quality, affordable
17 health care, including primary care, specialty care, hospitalization, and prescription
18 drug coverage, accessible to all citizens of the State; and

19 (2) analyze the feasibility and desirability of implementing aspects of the
20 "Dirigo Health" plan, the California employer mandate, or other innovative state
21 health care coverage programs in Maryland.

22 (g) The Task Force, in conducting the study required under subsection (f)(1) of
23 this section[,]:

24 (1) shall seek input from consumer advocates, health care providers,
25 insurance carriers that write policies in the State, the business community, hospitals,
26 and community clinics; AND

27 (2) MAY APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEES TO CONDUCT MORE DETAILED
28 STUDIES OF SPECIFIC SUBJECTS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE TASK FORCE.

29 (h) The Task Force shall conduct a minimum of four public hearings in
30 different geographic regions of the State to receive citizen input.

31 (i) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
32 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the
33 General Assembly on or before December 31, [2005] 2006.

34 SECTION 14. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 13 of
35 this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2005. Section 3 of this Act shall remain
36 effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2010, with no further action

1 required by the General Assembly, Section 3 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no
2 further force and effect. Section 5 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of [1
3 year] 2 YEARS and, at the end of June 30, [2006] 2007, with no further action
4 required by the General Assembly, Section 5 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no
5 further force and effect.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 June 1, 2006.