
By: **Senators Jones, Britt, Conway, Currie, DeGrange, Exum, Gladden,
Hughes, Lawlah, McFadden, Munson, and Ruben**

Introduced and read first time: March 6, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland;
4 specifying the chairmanship, membership, and duties of the Task Force;
5 requiring the Task Force to make legislative recommendations; requiring the
6 Task Force to meet with a certain frequency; requiring the Task Force to provide
7 a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain
8 date; providing for staffing of the Task Force; providing for the termination of
9 this Act; and generally relating to a Task Force to Study Prison Violence in
10 Maryland.

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland.

14 (b) The Task Force shall be comprised of:

15 (1) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
16 the House to serve as a co-chairman;

17 (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate to serve as a co-chairman;

19 (3) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or a
20 designee of the Secretary;

21 (4) the Commissioner of the Division of Correction, or a designee of the
22 Commissioner;

23 (5) the Attorney General, or a designee of the Attorney General;

24 (6) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or a designee of the Secretary; and

25 (7) the following members appointed by the Governor:

- 1 (i) one representative of the American Federation of State, County
2 and Municipal Employees who is also employed as a worker in a State prison;
- 3 (ii) one representative of the Justice Policy Institute;
- 4 (iii) one representative of the Criminology Department of a
5 Maryland institution of higher learning;
- 6 (iv) two former prisoners, one male and one female, of a State prison
7 that were incarcerated for a minimum of 5 years;
- 8 (v) one expert in the field of chemical engineering or toxicology; and
- 9 (vi) one representative of a Maryland prison reform advocacy group.

10 (c) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation as a member of
11 the Task Force but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
12 State Travel Regulations as provided in the State budget.

13 (d) The Task Force shall meet at least bi-monthly at the times and places that
14 the co-chairmen determine.

15 (e) The Task Force shall:

16 (1) study available information on:

17 (i) the scope, nature, patterns, and causal relationships of violence
18 in the State's prisons;

19 (ii) the impact of illegal drugs on violence in the State's prisons;

20 (iii) the impact of exposure to lead and other pollutants on violence
21 in the State's prisons; and

22 (iv) the best practices of other state correctional systems in dealing
23 with prison violence;

24 (2) make legislative recommendations; and

25 (3) prepare a report summarizing the findings and recommendations of
26 the Task Force.

27 (f) The Task Force shall submit the findings and recommendations of the
28 Task Force to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,
29 the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2007.

30 (g) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide
31 staff to the Task Force.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 October 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of

- 1 September 30, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
- 2 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.