

HOUSE BILL 1181

P1

(71r3050)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Health and Government Operations / Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs* —

Introduced by **Delegates Minnick, Aumann, Bohanan, Boteler, Costa, Dwyer, Elliott, Frank, George, Harrison, Howard, Impallaria, Jameson, Krebs, Kullen, Levy, Love, McConkey, McDonough, O'Donnell, Proctor, Shank, Sophocleus, Stocksdale, Stukes, ~~and Wood~~ Wood, Hammen, Beitzel, Benson, Bromwell, Donoghue, Hubbard, Kach, Kipke, Mizeur, Montgomery, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Riley, Tarrant, V. Turner, and Weldon**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study State Assistance to Veterans**

3 FOR the purpose of *altering the process for the appointment of certain members of the*
4 *Task Force to Study State Assistance to Veterans*; extending the date by which
5 the members of the Task Force ~~to Study State Assistance to Veterans~~ must be

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.



1 appointed; extending the dates by which the Task Force must report its interim
 2 and final findings and recommendations to certain officials; extending the
 3 termination date of the Task Force; clarifying language; and generally relating
 4 to the Task Force to Study State Assistance to Veterans.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 6 Chapter 290 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006
 7 Section 3 and 5

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

10 **Chapter 290 of the Acts of 2006**

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

12 (a) There is a Task Force to Study State Assistance to Veterans.

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

14 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
 15 of the Senate;

16 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
 17 the House;

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

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

21 (5) the Adjutant General of the Military, or the Adjutant General's
 22 designee; and

23 (6) the following seven members, ~~jointly~~ appointed by the ~~President of~~
 24 ~~the Senate and the Speaker of the House~~ **GOVERNOR**:

25 (i) one member of the Maryland Congressional Delegation, or
 26 the member's designee;

27 (ii) one member of the Maryland Veterans Commission;

1 (iii) two veterans, one of whom is disabled and one of whom has
2 separated from military service within the past 2 years;

3 (iv) one individual who is the surviving spouse or parent of a
4 veteran;

5 (v) one individual with knowledge of providing health care
6 services to veterans; and

7 (vi) a representative of the Maryland Higher Education
8 Commission.

9 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly
10 designate the chairman of the Task Force.

11 (d) The President of the Senate ~~and~~ the Speaker of the House, **AND THE**
12 **GOVERNOR** shall make all appointments on or before July 1, [2006] **2007**.

13 (e) The members of the Task Force shall represent geographic, ethnic, and
14 cultural differences throughout the State.

15 (f) The Task Force may request assistance and information from any
16 government unit or other expert that the Task Force considers appropriate.

17 (g) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task
18 Force.

19 (h) A member of the Task Force:

20 (1) may not receive compensation **AS A MEMBER OF THE TASK**
21 **FORCE**; but

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

24 (i) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations on veterans
25 issues including:

26 (1) the efficacy of the services and benefits for veterans to determine
27 how well the services and benefits help eligible individuals obtain benefits and
28 whether these are being obtained in a timely manner;

1 (2) whether there are enough advocate offices to efficiently help all
2 eligible individuals receive assistance;

3 (3) the potential impact of the increased number of veterans returning
4 from military service in recent conflicts on services provided by the State;

5 (4) what services are provided to veterans, veterans' families and
6 survivors and what services need to be provided including medical care, hospice care,
7 and mental health services;

8 (5) the feasibility of establishing homes for veterans in the
9 Crownsville Hospital Center and other regions of the State;

10 (6) the feasibility of establishing regional outreach and advocacy
11 centers around the State and using existing service centers as outreach and advocacy
12 centers;

13 (7) the identification of State and federal benefits and services and
14 how to make them more comprehensive;

15 (8) how to improve outreach to women who are eligible to receive
16 veteran-related benefits; and

17 (9) any issue regarding benefits and assistance to veterans that the
18 Task Force determines is necessary.

19 (j) The Task Force shall submit an interim report to the Governor and, *IN*
20 *ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE*, the General
21 Assembly, on or before December 1, [2006] **2007**, and report its final findings and
22 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
23 Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before December 1, [2007] **2008**.

24 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 June 1, 2006. Section 3 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of [1 year,
26 6 months and 1 day] **3 YEARS** and, at the end of [December 1, 2007] **MAY 31, 2009**,
27 with no further action required by the General Assembly, Section 3 of this Act shall be
28 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 June 1, 2007.