

SENATE BILL 69

E4
SB 1060/06 – JPR

71r0714

By: **Senators Jones, Conway, Exum, Gladden, and Kelley**
Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2007
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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

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

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 cochair;

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) the Commissioner of the Division of Correction, or a designee of the
2 Commissioner;

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

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

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

7 (i) one representative of the American Federation of State,
8 County and Municipal Employees who is also employed as a worker in a State prison;

9 (ii) one representative of the Justice Policy Institute;

10 (iii) one representative of the criminology department of a
11 Maryland institution of higher learning;

12 (iv) two former prisoners, one male and one female, of a State
13 prison that were incarcerated for a minimum of 5 years;

14 (v) one expert in the field of chemical engineering or toxicology;
15 and

16 (vi) one representative of a Maryland prison reform advocacy
17 group.

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

21 (d) The Task Force shall meet at least bimonthly at the times and places that
22 the cochairs determine.

23 (e) The Task Force shall:

24 (1) study available information on:

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

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

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

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

5 (2) make legislative recommendations; and

6 (3) prepare a report summarizing the findings and recommendations
7 of the Task Force.

8 (f) The Task Force shall submit the findings and recommendations of the
9 Task Force to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,
10 the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2008.

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

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of
15 September 30, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
16 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.