

## CHAPTER 518

(Senate Bill 69)

AN ACT concerning

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

FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland; specifying the chair, membership, and duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to make legislative recommendations; requiring the Task Force to meet ~~with a certain frequency~~ *at certain times and places*; requiring the Task Force to provide ~~a certain report~~ *certain reports* to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before ~~a certain date~~ *dates*; providing for staffing of the Task Force; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland.

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

- (a) There is a Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland.
- (b) The Task Force shall be ~~comprised~~ *composed* of:
  - (1) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve as a cochair;
  - (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate to serve as a cochair;
  - (3) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or a designee of the Secretary;
  - (4) the Commissioner of the Division of Correction, or a designee of the Commissioner;
  - (5) the Attorney General, or a designee of the Attorney General;
  - (6) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or a designee of the Secretary;
  - (7) the Public Defender of Maryland, or the Public Defender's designee;

and

~~(7)~~ (8) the following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) ~~one representative~~ two representatives, one male and one female, of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees who ~~is~~ are also employed as ~~a worker~~ workers correctional officers in a State prison;

(ii) one representative of the Justice Policy Institute;

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

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

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

(vi) one representative of a Maryland prison reform advocacy group; ~~and~~

(vii) one intelligence lieutenant from the Division of Correction;

(viii) one representative knowledgeable and experienced in the field of medical and health care services for prisoners;

(ix) one representative of the Department of State Police; and

(x) two members, at least one of whom is a member of the Maryland Classified Employees Association, and each of whom is employed as a case manager, psychologist, addiction counselor, or warden in a State prison.

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

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

(e) The Task Force shall:

- (1) study available information on:
    - (i) the scope, nature, patterns, and causal relationships of violence in the State's prisons;
    - (ii) the impact of illegal drugs on violence in the State's prisons;
    - (iii) the impact of exposure to lead and other pollutants on violence in the State's prisons; ~~and~~
    - (iv) the best practices of other state correctional systems in dealing with prison violence;
    - (v) *the impact of contraband on violence in the State's prisons;*
    - (vi) *the role of gang activity on violence in the State's prisons;*

*and*

    - (vii) *any other issues that the Task Force considers relevant;*
  - (2) make legislative recommendations; and
  - (3) prepare a report summarizing the findings and recommendations of the Task Force.
- (f) The Task Force shall submit:
- (1) *an interim report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before December 31, 2007; and*
  - (2) *a final report of the findings and recommendations of the Task Force to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2008.*
- (g) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide staff to the Task Force.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ *July* 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~2 years~~ *1 year and 7 months* and, at the end of ~~September 30, 2009~~ *January 31, 2009*, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**Approved by the Governor, May 17, 2007.**