

HOUSE BILL 245

E4

8lr0382

By: **Delegate Benson**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2008

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force for the Prevention of Human Trafficking in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force for the Prevention of Human
4 Trafficking in Maryland; providing for the membership and duties of the Task
5 Force; providing for the staffing of the Task Force; establishing that a member
6 of the Task Force may not receive certain compensation but is entitled to a
7 certain reimbursement; requiring the Task Force to submit certain reports to
8 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing
9 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to human trafficking and
10 involuntary servitude.

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force for the Prevention of Human Trafficking in
14 Maryland.

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

16 (1) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
17 President of the Senate;

18 (2) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
19 of the House;

20 (3) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

21 (4) The Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;

22 (5) The Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the
23 Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (6) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
2 designee;
- 3 (7) The Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- 4 (8) The Public Defender of Maryland, or the Public Defender's
5 designee;
- 6 (9) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's
7 designee;
- 8 (10) The President of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, or the
9 President's designee;
- 10 (11) The President of the Maryland Sheriff's Association, or the
11 President's designee;
- 12 (12) The Executive Director of the Maryland Commission for Women;
- 13 (13) The Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children; and
- 14 (14) The following members appointed by the Governor:
- 15 (i) One representative from the Maryland Coalition Against
16 Domestic Violence;
- 17 (ii) One representative from a nongovernmental organization
18 who is a specialist in addressing the problems of human trafficking and involuntary
19 servitude;
- 20 (iii) One representative from a nonprofit organization that
21 provides services to immigrants and refugees;
- 22 (iv) One representative from a victim services organization;
- 23 (v) One representative from an organization that provides civil
24 legal services to low-income individuals;
- 25 (vi) Two representatives from communities disproportionately
26 affected by human trafficking and involuntary servitude; and
- 27 (vii) One representative from a nongovernmental agency devoted
28 to child and runaway services.
- 29 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

1 (d) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the
2 Department of Human Resources shall jointly provide staff for the Task Force.

3 (e) A member of the Task Force:

4 (1) May not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

5 (2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
6 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

7 (f) The Task Force shall:

8 (1) Collect and organize data on the nature and extent of human
9 trafficking in the State;

10 (2) Develop a plan for the coordinated collection and sharing of human
11 trafficking information among government agencies for the purpose of detecting
12 individuals and groups engaged in human trafficking;

13 (3) Develop a State plan for the prevention of human trafficking and
14 involuntary servitude and coordinate implementation of the plan;

15 (4) Develop policies to provide for coordination between governmental
16 agencies and nongovernmental organizations to enable them to better prevent human
17 trafficking and involuntary servitude and to provide assistance to victims, including
18 United States citizens and foreign nationals;

19 (5) Work with representatives of print, broadcast, and Internet media,
20 and appropriate State agencies and local governments to develop a comprehensive
21 public awareness campaign about human trafficking in the State that provides
22 information on how individuals can work with law enforcement and social service
23 organizations to help prevent human trafficking and involuntary servitude, and how
24 victims can receive assistance; and

25 (6) Review the existing services and facilities intended to meet the
26 needs of human trafficking victims and recommend a system that would coordinate
27 services, including:

28 (i) Health services;

29 (ii) Housing;

30 (iii) Education;

31 (iv) Job training;

32 (v) English as a second language training;

- 1 (vi) Interpreting services;
- 2 (vii) Legal and immigration services;
- 3 (viii) Witness protection;
- 4 (ix) Economic assistance;
- 5 (x) Victim compensation; and
- 6 (xi) Voluntary repatriation services.

7 (g) The Task Force shall submit:

8 (1) An interim report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the
9 State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before June 30, 2009; and

10 (2) A final report of the findings and recommendations of the Task
11 Force to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
12 General Assembly, on or before June 1, 2010.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June
15 30, 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
16 abrogated and of no further force and effect.