

# HOUSE BILL 364

E1, E4

9lr1687

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By: **Delegates Burns, Anderson, Benson, Braveboy, Conaway, Doory, Dwyer, Frank, Gaines, Harrison, Howard, Hubbard, Ivey, Kach, Love, McConkey, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann, Oaks, Pena-Melnyk, Proctor, Robinson, Smigiel, Stukes, Tarrant, F. Turner, V. Turner, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2009

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study State Employment Assistance for Ex-Felons**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study State Employment Assistance  
4 for Ex-Felons; providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force;  
5 providing for the staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to appoint  
6 the chair of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from  
7 receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to  
8 receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report  
9 to the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of this  
10 Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force to Study State  
11 Employment Assistance for Ex-Felons.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study State Employment Assistance for  
15 Ex-Felons.

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

17 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
18 of the Senate;

19 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
20 the House;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's  
2 designee;

3 (4) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's  
4 designee;

5 (5) the Statewide EEO Coordinator of the Office of Statewide Equal  
6 Employment Opportunity, or the Coordinator's designee;

7 (6) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the  
8 Secretary's designee;

9 (7) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the  
10 Secretary's designee;

11 (8) the Director of the State Personnel Management System, or the  
12 Director's designee; and

13 (9) the following individuals appointed by the Governor:

14 (i) a representative of the Division of Parole and Probation;

15 (ii) an individual with experience or expertise in assisting  
16 ex-felons find employment in the State; and

17 (iii) an ex-felon with experience in searching for employment in  
18 the State.

19 (c) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Task Force from its  
20 membership.

21 (d) The Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation shall provide staff  
22 support for the Task Force from the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation.

23 (e) A member of the Task Force:

24 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

27 (f) The Task Force shall:

28 (1) examine and report on current State laws, policies, and practices  
29 relating to the employment of ex-felons by the State, and shall consider issues relating  
30 to the ability of ex-felons who are not incarcerated to access existing programs  
31 established to help inmates prepare for employment prospects outside of prison;

1           (2)    examine and report on the policies and practices of private  
2 employers in the State in hiring ex-felons, including investigating whether granting  
3 tax credits to private employers for hiring ex-felons or providing private employers  
4 employment bonds for ex-felons would have a positive effect on the hiring policies of  
5 private employers; and

6           (3)    recommend programs and legislation to increase opportunities for  
7 ex-felons in State employment, including the development of a pilot project that can  
8 be used for that purpose.

9           (g)    On or before December 31, 2009, the Task Force shall report its findings  
10 and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the  
11 State Government Article.

12           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 June 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,  
14 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
15 abrogated and of no further force and effect.