

CHAPTER 102

(Senate Bill 817)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland – ~~Continuation~~ Reconstitution

FOR the purpose of ~~continuing~~ reconstituting the 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 at certain times and places; requiring the Task Force to provide certain reports to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for staffing of the Task Force; providing for the termination of this Act; stating the intent of the General Assembly; 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 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
 - (8) the following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) two representatives, one male and one female, of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees who are also employed as 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 who were incarcerated for a minimum of 5 years;

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

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

(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 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;

(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, 2009; 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, 2010.

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, and the Governor appoint to the Task Force to Study Prison Violence in Maryland those individuals who formerly were appointed to the predecessor Task Force established under Chapter 518 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007 and who were serving on the Task Force as of January 31, 2009.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of May 31, 2011, 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, April 14, 2009.