

HOUSE BILL 618

E4
HB 730/11 – JUD

2lr1925

By: **Delegates Simmons, Dumais, and Kramer**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2012

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated**
3 **Firearms**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with
5 Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms; providing for the membership, staffing,
6 and duties of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to appoint the chair of the
7 Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
8 compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive
9 reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report to the
10 Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the
11 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task
12 Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms.

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness
16 to Regulated Firearms.

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

18 (1) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;

19 (2) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
20 designee;

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

22 (4) the Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Administrative
23 Hearings, or the Judge's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the Public Defender of Maryland, or the Public Defender's
2 designee;

3 (6) the Director of the Office of Forensic Services in the Department of
4 Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Director's designee; and

5 (7) the following individuals, appointed by the Governor:

6 (i) one representative of the Maryland Fraternal Order of
7 Police;

8 (ii) one representative of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun
9 Policy and Research;

10 (iii) one representative of the National Rifle Association;

11 (iv) one representative of the Mental Health Association of
12 Maryland;

13 (v) one representative of the Maryland Disability Law Center;
14 and

15 (vi) one representative of the National Alliance on Mental
16 Illness of Maryland.

17 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

18 (d) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide staff
19 for the Task Force.

20 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

24 (f) The Task Force shall:

25 (1) study the adequacy of State laws and policies relating to:

26 (i) the access of individuals with a history of mental illness to
27 regulated firearms; and

28 (ii) the access of law enforcement officers to mental health
29 records; and

1 (2) consider and make recommendations regarding legislative options
2 for:

3 (i) further limiting the access of individuals with a history of
4 mental illness to regulated firearms; and

5 (ii) expanding the access of law enforcement officers to certain
6 mental health records.

7 (g) On or before December 31, 2012, the Task Force shall report its findings
8 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
9 Government Article, the General Assembly.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 June 1, 2012. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
12 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
13 abrogated and of no further force and effect.