

Chapter 695

(House Bill 991)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study the Renovation and Repair Needs of Senior Homeowners

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development, with the assistance of the Department of Aging, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Department of Human Resources, to create a task force to study methods for identifying and understanding the renovation and repair needs of low-income and limited-income senior homeowners and identifying resources to assist senior homeowners; requiring the task force to consult with and enlist the participation of certain stakeholders; requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development to report on the findings of the task force to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the creation of a task force to study the renovation and repair needs of low-income and limited-income senior homeowners.

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

(a) The Department of Housing and Community Development, with the assistance of the Department of Aging, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Department of Human Resources, shall create a task force to study methods for:

(1) identifying, on a statewide basis, seniors of limited income who own and occupy single-family homes;

(2) identifying census tracts with high concentrations of senior homeowners;

(3) understanding the needs of low-income seniors living in their own homes regarding:

(i) home repairs;

(ii) safety; and

(iii) energy savings;

(4) addressing the impact of high concentrations of low-income senior homeowners on neighborhood stability and preservation;

(5) identifying existing and new public resources on the federal, State, and local levels to assist low-income and limited-income senior homeowners with home renovation and repairs; and

(6) identifying the challenges for low-income and limited-income senior homeowners in accessing public resources.

(b) The task force shall consult with and enlist the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of:

(1) local housing agencies;

(2) nonprofit organizations that address housing issues for seniors;

(3) organizations that assist seniors with financial literacy;

(4) financial institutions;

(5) contractors; and

(6) architects.

(c) On or before December 31, 2012, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall report on the findings of the task force to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2012. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2013, 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 22, 2012.