

HOUSE BILL 955

C3, K3

(3lr1579)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Economic Matters/Finance* —

Introduced by **Delegates Jameson and Kaiser**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Temporary Disability Insurance Programs *and the***
3 ***Process for Assisting Individuals with Disabilities at Local Departments of***
4 ***Social Services***

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Temporary Disability
6 Insurance Programs *and the Process for Assisting Individuals with Disabilities*
7 *at Local Departments of Social Services*; providing for the composition, chair,
8 and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from
9 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain
10 expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations
11 regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and
12 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a
13 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
14 the Task Force to Study Temporary Disability Insurance Programs *and the*

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Process for Assisting Individuals with Disabilities at Local Departments of
2 Social Services.

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

5 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Temporary Disability Insurance Programs
6 and the Process for Assisting Individuals with Disabilities at Local Departments of
7 Social Services.

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

9 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
10 President of the Senate;

11 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
12 of the House;

13 (3) the Commissioner of the Maryland Insurance Administration, or
14 the Commissioner's designee;

15 (4) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

16 (5) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the
17 Secretary's designee;

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

20 (7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

21 (i) one representative of the Workers' Compensation
22 Commission;

23 (ii) one representative of ~~the American Cancer Society~~ All
24 Shades of Pink;

25 (iii) one representative of the Cancer Support Foundation;

26 (iv) two representatives of Maryland labor organizations;

27 (v) one representative of the ~~Maryland Chamber of Commerce~~
28 Leukemia and Lymphoma Society;

29 (vi) two members of the business community;

1 (vii) ~~three~~ two members of the insurance industry, including one
2 member of the temporary disability insurance industry; ~~and~~

3 (viii) one member of the public;

4 (ix) one representative of a disability advocacy organization;

5 (x) two representatives of local departments of social services;
6 and

7 (xi) at least two representatives of cancer treatment centers in the
8 State who perform patient navigation services.

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

10 (d) The Maryland Insurance Administration and the Department of Human
11 Resources shall provide staff for the Task Force.

12 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

16 (f) The Task Force shall:

17 (1) study the full complement of benefits available under State and
18 federal law to workers and recently unemployed individuals in Maryland who become
19 disabled due to nonwork-related illness or injury;

20 (2) study the wage replacement benefits available to a worker or a
21 recently unemployed individual in Maryland who becomes disabled due to
22 nonwork-related illness or injury;

23 (3) study the availability and sufficiency of wage replacement benefits
24 available to workers and recently unemployed individuals in Maryland who become
25 disabled due to nonwork-related cancer;

26 (4) study the exclusivity and exhaustion of benefit standards that
27 limit the level or extent of benefits that a worker or a recently unemployed individual
28 in Maryland who becomes disabled due to nonwork-related illness or injury may
29 receive;

30 (5) study and compare temporary disability insurance programs in
31 other jurisdictions in terms of:

- 1 (i) coverage;
- 2 (ii) eligibility requirements and limitations;
- 3 (iii) minimum and maximum benefit threshold amounts;
- 4 (iv) costs to employers, employees, and administrators;
- 5 (v) funding mechanisms;
- 6 (vi) administration; and
- 7 (vii) appeals processes;

8 (6) study and make recommendations regarding the adequacy of the
9 application processes utilized by local departments of social services to assist
10 individuals who become disabled due to nonwork-related illness or injury, including
11 individuals undergoing treatment for cancer, and who apply for assistance, including
12 food stamps, temporary cash assistance, energy assistance benefits, temporary
13 disability assistance benefits, and medical assistance;

14 ~~(6)~~ (7) make recommendations regarding potential costs and benefits to
15 the State's workforce of establishing a temporary disability insurance program; and

16 ~~(7)~~ (8) make recommendations regarding the potential structure,
17 administration, eligibility standards, and funding mechanisms for a temporary
18 disability insurance program in Maryland.

19 (g) On or before December 1, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings
20 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
21 Government Article, the General Assembly.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
24 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
25 abrogated and of no further force and effect.