

# SENATE BILL 898

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CF HB 1137

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By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2013

Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Process for Assisting Cancer Patients at Local**  
3 **Departments of Social Services**

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

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Process for Assisting Cancer Patients  
17 at Local Departments of Social Services.

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

19 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
20 President of the Senate;

21 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
22 of the House;

23 (3) one member of the Legislative Black Caucus, appointed by the  
24 Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) the Lieutenant Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor's designee;

2 (5) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

3 (6) the People's Counsel, or a designee of the People's Counsel; and

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

5 (i) one representative of the Baltimore City Department of  
6 Social Services;

7 (ii) one representative of the Baltimore County Department of  
8 Social Services;

9 (iii) one representative of the Montgomery County Department  
10 of Health and Human Services;

11 (iv) one representative of the Prince George's County  
12 Department of Social Services;

13 (v) one representative of the American Cancer Society;

14 (vi) one representative of the Cancer Support Foundation;

15 (vii) one representative of All Shades of Pink;

16 (viii) one representative of the Red Devils;

17 (ix) one representative of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society;  
18 and

19 (x) at least four representatives of cancer treatment centers in  
20 the State who perform patient navigation services.

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

22 (d) The Department of Human Resources shall provide staff for the Task  
23 Force.

24 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

28 (f) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding:

1           (1) the processes that local departments of social services utilize in  
2 providing assistance to individuals undergoing cancer treatment, including assistance  
3 in the form of food stamps, temporary cash assistance, energy assistance benefits,  
4 temporary disability assistance benefits, and medical assistance; and

5           (2) measures that local departments of social services can take to  
6 better assist individuals undergoing cancer treatment, including modifying the process  
7 for applying for assistance by:

8                   (i) allowing telephone interviews of applicants;

9                   (ii) streamlining the process for completing and submitting  
10 paperwork, such as allowing applicants to submit paperwork in a drop box at local  
11 departments of social services;

12                   (iii) reducing wait times for applicants who apply for assistance  
13 in person; and

14                   (iv) waiving for applicants undergoing cancer treatment any  
15 required drug tests.

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

19           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,  
21 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
22 abrogated and of no further force and effect.