

SENATE BILL 977

J3, J1

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By: **Senator Pipkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2013

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Evaluate Regional Health Delivery and Health Planning in**
3 **Rural Areas**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Evaluate Regional Health Delivery
5 and Health Planning in Rural Areas; providing for the composition, cochairs,
6 and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from
7 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain
8 expenses; requiring the Task Force to evaluate regional health delivery and
9 health planning in rural areas, with a certain emphasis, to include certain items
10 in its evaluation, and to make certain recommendations; requiring the Task
11 Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain
12 legislative committees on or before a certain date; providing for the termination
13 of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Evaluate Regional
14 Health Delivery and Health Planning in Rural Areas.

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

17 (a) There is a Task Force to Evaluate Regional Health Delivery and Health
18 Planning in Rural Areas.

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

20 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, both of whom shall
21 represent a rural jurisdiction in the State, and one of whom shall be a member of the
22 minority party of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

23 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, both of whom shall
24 represent a rural jurisdiction in the State, and one of whom shall be a member of the
25 minority party of the House, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (4) the Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission,
4 or the Executive Director's designee;

5 (5) the Executive Director of the Health Services Cost Review
6 Commission, or the Executive Director's designee;

7 (6) the Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for Emergency
8 Medical Services Systems, or the Executive Director's designee;

9 (7) the Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for Southern
10 Maryland;

11 (8) the Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for Western
12 Maryland;

13 (9) the Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for the Lower
14 Eastern Shore of Maryland;

15 (10) the Executive Director of the Mid-Shore Regional Council;

16 (11) the Executive Director of the Upper Shore Regional Council;

17 (12) three health officers, one of whom shall be from an Eastern Shore
18 county, one of whom shall be from a Western Maryland county, and one of whom shall
19 be from a Southern Maryland county, appointed by the Secretary of Health and
20 Mental Hygiene; and

21 (13) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) six county commissioners or county council members, two of
23 whom shall be from the Eastern Shore, two of whom shall be from Western Maryland,
24 and two of whom shall be from Southern Maryland, nominated by the Maryland
25 Association of Counties;

26 (ii) one representative of the Medical Chirurgical Society of
27 Maryland;

28 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Hospital Association;
29 and

30 (iv) two representatives of the health insurance industry.

1 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall appoint
2 one member of the Senate of Maryland and one member of the House of Delegates,
3 respectively, to cochair the Task Force.

4 (d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the
5 Task Force.

6 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

10 (f) The Task Force shall:

11 (1) evaluate regional health delivery and health planning in rural
12 areas, with a specific emphasis on large hospital systems acquiring or affiliating with
13 smaller hospitals or hospital systems;

14 (2) include in its evaluation:

15 (i) the appropriateness of current designations of health
16 planning regions for particular health services in rural areas;

17 (ii) the adequacy of the health care workforce, particularly
18 among physicians, nurses, behavioral health care providers, and allied health
19 professionals, in rural areas;

20 (iii) the barriers to accessibility of health care services, due to
21 distance;

22 (iv) the adequacy of transportation for health care services;

23 (v) the effect of the increasing concentration of hospital and
24 other services under large urban-based hospital systems on availability and
25 accessibility of health care services; and

26 (vi) the effect of changes in the health care delivery system on
27 meeting the health care needs of rural areas; and

28 (3) make recommendations for improvements.

29 (g) On or before January 1, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings and
30 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
31 Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and
32 Government Operations Committee.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
3 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
4 abrogated and of no further force and effect.