

SENATE BILL 52

P1

(PRE-FILED)

4lr0798
CF HB 1433

By: **Senator Benson**

Requested: November 4, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2014

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Services and Resources Provided by the Department of**
3 **Veterans Affairs**

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

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Services and Resources Provided by the
17 Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

19 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
20 of the Senate;

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.



1 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
2 the House;

3 (3) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee; and

4 (4) four representatives from veteran organizations located in the
5 State, appointed by the Governor.

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

7 (d) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide staff for the Task
8 Force.

9 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

13 (f) The Task Force shall:

14 (1) study the services, including access to a kinesiotherapist, and
15 resources provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and issues that affect the
16 ability of veterans residing in the State to access the services and resources; and

17 (2) make recommendations regarding:

18 (i) how to improve the services and resources provided by the
19 Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans residing in the State, including:

20 ~~(i)~~ 1. lowering the case loads of employees who work with
21 veterans to address their needs;

22 ~~(ii)~~ 2. offering more privacy to veterans who are discussing
23 personal needs and issues with employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

24 ~~(iii)~~ 3. decreasing the amount of time veterans wait for
25 services from the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

26 (ii) whether the licensure of kinesiotherapists in Maryland
27 would benefit veterans residing in the State and, if so, how licensure should be
28 effectuated.

1 (g) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings
2 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
3 Government Article, the General Assembly.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 June 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the
6 end of June 30, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
7 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.