

HOUSE BILL 978

O2

6lr1870
CF SB 604

By: **Delegates M. Washington, Morales, Cullison, Ebersole, Jackson, Kelly, Morhaim, B. Robinson, Tarlau, Walker, and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2016

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Housing, Health, and Economic Stability of Maryland**
3 **Seniors**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Housing, Health, and Economic
5 Stability of Maryland Seniors; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of
6 the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
7 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the
8 Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters;
9 requiring the Task Force to submit a preliminary report and a final report, including
10 its findings and recommendations, to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
11 before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
12 to the Task Force to Study Housing, Health, and Economic Stability of Maryland
13 Seniors.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Housing, Health, and Economic Stability of
17 Maryland Seniors.

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

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

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

23 (3) the Secretary of Aging, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
2 Secretary's designee;

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

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

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

7 (i) five representatives of continuum of care entities in different
8 geographic regions of the State, including one representative each from Western Maryland,
9 Central Maryland, Southern Maryland, the Upper Eastern Shore, and the Lower Eastern
10 Shore;

11 (ii) two representatives of local government;

12 (iii) two representatives of senior advocacy organizations; and

13 (iv) two representatives of service providers.

14 (c) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's designee,
15 shall serve as the chair of the Task Force.

16 (d) The Department of Aging and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
17 shall provide staff for the Task Force.

18 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

22 (f) The Task Force shall:

23 (1) identify the public and private sector programs, services, and resources
24 currently available to meet the needs of seniors living in the State;

25 (2) assess the coordination of priorities, funding, and systems among all
26 State and local agencies that provide any funding, services, or programs for seniors;

27 (3) assess the adequacy of State funding and systems ensuring access to
28 affordable senior living housing and supportive services for seniors;

29 (4) assess the use and adequacy of Medicaid and mental, behavioral, and
30 general health long-term care, regulations, and reimbursement policies;

1 (5) assess issues concerning the long-term care and home care workforce;

2 (6) compile existing information on, identify, and study the unique needs
3 of seniors living in various areas of the State;

4 (7) identify gaps in the public and private sector programs, services, and
5 resources available to meet the needs of seniors living in the State;

6 (8) collect, analyze, evaluate, and report on demographic and economic
7 data on seniors who are full-time residents in the State; and

8 (9) make recommendations on:

9 (i) legislation and policy initiatives to address the needs of seniors
10 living in the State;

11 (ii) funding requirements and budgetary priorities to address the
12 needs of seniors living in the state;

13 (iii) the roles of the family, caregiver, primary care physician, and
14 community in working toward maintaining personal independence; and

15 (iv) any other relevant issues or considerations identified by the Task
16 Force.

17 (g) (1) On or before January 31, 2017, the Task Force shall submit a
18 preliminary report on its study to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the
19 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

20 (2) On or before October 31, 2017, the Task Force shall submit a final
21 report, including its findings and recommendations, to the Governor and, in accordance
22 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
24 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 7 months and, at the end of
25 December 31, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
26 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.