

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 880
Finance

(Senator Jennings)

Appropriations

Task Force to Study Welfare Reform in Maryland

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study Welfare Reform in Maryland, which is to be staffed by the Department of Human Resources (DHR). The Secretary of Human Resources is the chair of the task force. By December 31, 2016, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Senate Finance and House Appropriations committees. A member of the task force may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2016, and terminates December 31, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for DHR are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must:

- review all federal and State programs that provide assistance to individuals with limited incomes;

- study data on fraud and abuse in welfare programs, metrics of success of programs, duplication in programming, work requirements, federal requirements, and waivers for welfare programs, and any other topics as determined by the chair;
- develop a comprehensive legislative proposal that incorporates recommendations of the task force related to welfare programs in order to help individuals with limited incomes achieve self-sufficiency within a reasonable period of time; and
- develop a comprehensive legislative proposal that addresses fraud and abuse in welfare programs.

Current Law/Background: Numerous federal and State programs provide assistance to individuals with limited incomes. For additional information on many of these programs, please see the report, [*Public Benefits for Children and Families*](#), prepared by the Department of Legislative Services.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2016
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