

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 1143

(Senator Muse, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Neshante and Chloe Davis Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force

This bill establishes the Neshante and Chloe Davis Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force, which is required to study various aspects of domestic violence and develop policy recommendations. By September 1, 2016, the task force must report its preliminary findings to the Governor and the General Assembly. By December 1, 2016, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2016, and terminates May 31, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any staffing costs for the Department of Human Resources (DHR) and expense reimbursements for task force members 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:

- study the effectiveness of current intervention strategies and explore new interventions that might strengthen efforts to prevent domestic violence;

- study existing legal, behavioral health, and family support policies, procedures, and practices to ascertain existing issues and identify resources needed to improve the delivery and effectiveness of domestic violence prevention and family support services;
- study ways to further engage and educate community stakeholders to be better informed and more engaged in identifying and preventing domestic violence in the community;
- study the ways individuals, families, and the community at large can better identify, report, and defend against domestic violence; and
- develop policy recommendations to improve the ability of State and local government, community stakeholders, families, and individuals to identify and prevent domestic violence in Maryland.

DHR must provide staff for the task force. The Governor must designate the chair of the task force, who may appoint a vice chair, an executive committee, and subgroups or subcommittees from among the members of the task force.

Members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

Background: Neshante Davis, age 26, and her daughter Chloe Davis-Green, age 2, were killed outside of their home in Prince George’s County on February 2, 2016. Chloe’s father has been charged with the murder. According to news reports, Neshante was a second-grade teacher at Bradbury Heights Elementary School in Capitol Heights, Maryland. She was also a recent graduate of Bowie State University.

According to the *2014 Uniform Crime Report*, 27,242 domestic violence crimes were reported in Maryland. Assault was by far the most frequently reported crime, with 24,485 incidents in calendar 2014. Of reported assaults, simple assaults comprised 19,697 incidents. There were 67 domestic violence homicides.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Human Resources, *The Washington Post*, nbcwashington.com, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 2016
md/kdm Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 8, 2016

Analysis by: Jennifer K. Botts

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510