

# SENATE BILL 654

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CF HB 1012

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By: **Senators Hough, Cassilly, Muse, Smith, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2017

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2017

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Crime Classification and Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Crime Classification and  
4 Penalties; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force;  
5 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but  
6 authorizing reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study  
7 certain issues related to the classification of and penalties for criminal and civil  
8 violations in the State; requiring the Task Force to report its findings to the Governor  
9 and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination  
10 of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Crime Classification  
11 and Penalties.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

13 That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Crime Classification and Penalties.

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

16 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
17 of the Senate;

18 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
19 the House;

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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                   (3) ~~one member of the Judiciary, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court~~  
2 ~~of Appeals;~~

3                   ~~(4)~~ the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

4                   ~~(5)~~ (4) the Executive Director of the Maryland Sentencing Commission, or  
5 the Executive Director's designee;

6                   ~~(6)~~ (5) the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and  
7 Prevention, or the Executive Director's designee;

8                   ~~(7)~~ (6) the president of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, or the  
9 president's designee;

10                  ~~(8)~~ (7) an expert in the subject matter of criminal sentencing, appointed by  
11 the president of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association;

12                  ~~(9)~~ (8) the Public Defender, or the Public Defender's designee;

13                  ~~(10)~~ (9) an expert in the subject matter of criminal sentencing, appointed by  
14 the Public Defender; and

15                  ~~(11)~~ (10) the chair of the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board.

16                  (c) The members of the Task Force shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

17                  (d) The Department of Legislative Services 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) review the penalties for all criminal and civil violations throughout the  
24 Maryland Code;

25                   (2) study the history and legislative intent of the classification of criminal  
26 and civil violations throughout the Maryland Code, including the constitutional  
27 implications and collateral consequences that arise as a result of classification;

28                   (3) study criminal classifications and penalty schemes in other states and  
29 how those classifications and schemes compare to those in the State; and

1 (4) make recommendations regarding the current statutory scheme for  
2 criminal and civil violations throughout the Maryland Code, including:

3 (i) whether there are violations that should be reclassified;

4 (ii) whether there are penalties that should be altered; and

5 (iii) whether the State would benefit from imposition of a  
6 standardized classification and penalty.

7 (g) On or before December 31, ~~2018~~ 2017, the Task Force shall report its findings  
8 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
9 Government Article, the General Assembly.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
11 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~2 years~~ 1 year and 1 month and, at the end  
12 of June 30, ~~2019~~ 2018, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
13 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.