

SENATE BILL 412

O4, O1

8lr0650

By: Senator Robinson

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Baltimore City Department of Social Services Oversight**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Baltimore City Department of Social
4 Services Oversight; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
6 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study certain matters, collect certain data, and make certain recommendations;
8 requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations 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 on Baltimore City Department
11 of Social Services Oversight.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force on Baltimore City Department of Social Services
15 Oversight.

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

17 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;

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

21 (3) one member of the Joint Committee on Fair Practices and State
22 Personnel Oversight, appointed by the cochairs of the Joint Committee;

23 (4) the Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- (5) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;

(6) one member of the Governor's Office for Children, appointed by the Governor;

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

(i) one representative from an organization that provides foster care services;

(ii) one social worker who works for the Baltimore City Department of Human Services.

The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

The Department of Human Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

A member of the Task Force:

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

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Allowances, as provided in the State budget.

(1) The Task Force shall study the following matters relating to the City Department of Social Services:

(i) the qualifications of managers and social workers;

(ii) how social workers are supervised;

(iii) the caseload of each social worker;

(iv) the methods social workers use to perform family visits;

(v) the methods social workers use to perform visits with children;

(vi) the process by which complaints are resolved;

(vii) the types and frequency of complaints received;

(viii) how and when a decision is reached to place a child in foster care;

(ix) how employees allocate their time among their various duties.

(2) For each item listed in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Task Force

1 shall study national best practices for the administration of social services.

2 (g) (1) The Task Force shall collect data on the number of children served by
3 the Baltimore City Department of Social Services:

4 (i) who are victims of child abuse or neglect; and

5 (ii) who become victims of murder.

6 (2) To the extent practicable, the Task Force shall catalog the data
7 collected under paragraph (1) of this subsection by the month in which each instance
8 occurred.

9 (h) After studying the matters listed in subsection (f) of this section and collecting
10 the data described in subsection (g) of this section, the Task Force shall make
11 recommendations regarding:

12 (1) methods by which the Baltimore City Department of Social Services can
13 align its practices with national best practices; and

14 (2) any legislation the Task Force considers necessary to reform the
15 Baltimore City Department of Social Services.

16 (i) On or before December 1, 2019, the Task Force shall report its findings and
17 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
18 Government Article, the General Assembly.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
20 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2020,
21 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
22 of no further force and effect.