

Chapter 110

(Senate Bill 49)

AN ACT concerning

**Task Force to Study Cooperative Purchasing for Health Insurance –
Membership and Staffing**

FOR the purpose of removing the Maryland Insurance Commissioner, or the Commissioner’s designee, from the membership of the Task Force to Study Cooperative Purchasing for Health Insurance; removing the requirement that the Maryland Insurance Administration provide staff for the Task Force; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Cooperative Purchasing for Health Insurance.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 307 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2018
Section 2

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Chapter 307 of the Acts of 2018

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Cooperative Purchasing for Health Insurance.

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

(1) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary’s designee;

[(2) the Maryland Insurance Commissioner, or the Commissioner’s
designee;]

[(3)] (2) the Procurement Advisor;

[(4)] (3) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

(ii) one representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of
Education;

(iii) one representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

(iv) one representative of the Maryland Public Purchasing Association;

(v) one representative of the supplemental benefits industry;

(vi) one representative of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association; and

(vii) one representative of Maryland Nonprofits;

[(5)] (4) one representative of the American Federation for State, County, and Municipal Employees, appointed by the President of the American Federation for State, County, and Municipal Employees Council 3;

[(6)] (5) one representative of the Maryland State Education Association, appointed by the President of the Association;

[(7)] (6) one representative of the American Federation for State, County, and Municipal Employees, appointed by the President of the American Federation for State, County, and Municipal Employees Council 67;

[(8)] (7) one representative of the Maryland State and D.C. AFL–CIO, appointed by the President of the Maryland State and D.C. AFL–CIO; and

[(9)] (8) one representative of the AFT–Maryland, appointed by the President of AFT–Maryland.

(c) The Procurement Advisor shall be the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Department of Budget and Management [and the Maryland Insurance Administration] shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) 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 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) In order to pool public employee health care purchasing by the State, counties, municipal corporations, and county boards to maximize value while maintaining a broad package of benefits and reasonable premiums, the Task Force shall:

(1) study models of cooperative purchasing of health insurance;

(2) recommend the health insurance benefit options that should be offered to:

(i) nonprofit organizations that qualify and elect to participate in the State health plan;

(ii) county, municipal corporation, and county board employees;

(iii) a surviving spouse, child, or dependent parent of a county, municipal corporation, or county board employee who died while employed by the State; and

(iv) a retired county, municipal corporation, or county board employee;

(3) recommend ways to:

(i) minimize and combine administrative costs; and

(ii) transition the State, counties, municipal corporations, and county boards to new plans, as applicable, without adversely affecting the health benefits of any employee;

(4) recommend whether the State should limit the number of nonprofit organizations that may participate in the State health plan; and

(5) make any other recommendations to control health costs and offer a variety of health benefit plan choices.

(g) On or before January 1, 2020, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2019.