

HOUSE BILL 2

O1
HB 1797/18 – HRU

(PRE-FILED)

9lr0813

By: **Delegate Glenn**

Requested: November 20, 2018

Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Improve Baltimore City Homeless Transitions From Low-Barrier**
3 **Shelters to Permanent Housing**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Improve Baltimore City Homeless
5 Transitions From Low-Barrier Shelters to Permanent Housing; providing for the
6 composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task
7 Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of
8 certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study certain matters related to
9 low-barrier shelters and make certain recommendations on volunteering; requiring
10 the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor of Baltimore
11 City, the Baltimore City Council, the Governor, and the General Assembly on or
12 before a certain date; defining a certain term; providing for the termination of this
13 Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Improve Baltimore City Homeless
14 Transitions From Low-Barrier Shelters to Permanent Housing.

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That:

17 (a) In this section, “low-barrier shelter” means a shelter for a homeless individual
18 that does not screen the individual, including requiring the individual to pass a drug test,
19 before providing shelter.

20 (b) There is a Task Force to Improve Baltimore City Homeless Transitions From
21 Low-Barrier Shelters to Permanent Housing.

22 (c) The Task Force consists of the following members:

23 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland who represents Baltimore City,
24 appointed by the President of the Senate;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



HOUSE BILL 2

1 (2) one member of the House of Delegates who represents Baltimore City,
2 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

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

4 (i) one member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness from
5 Baltimore City, or, if no such member exists, one member of the Council from a
6 congressional district in the State that includes Baltimore City in its boundaries;

7 (ii) one member from a list of names submitted to the Governor by
8 the Baltimore City Senate Delegation to the General Assembly; and

9 (iii) one member from a list of names submitted to the Governor by
10 the Baltimore City House Delegation to the General Assembly;

11 (4) one member appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore City; and

12 (5) one member appointed by the President of the Baltimore City Council,
13 chosen from a list of names submitted by the Baltimore City Council.

14 (d) The Mayor of Baltimore City shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

15 (e) The Office of the Mayor of Baltimore City shall provide staff for the Task
16 Force.

17 (f) A member of the Task Force:

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

19 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
20 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

21 (g) The Task Force shall:

22 (1) identify all low-barrier shelters that are:

23 (i) funded by Baltimore City; or

24 (ii) located within Baltimore City;

25 (2) gather the data necessary to develop an estimate of the average number
26 of days homeless individuals spend in low-barrier shelters identified in item (1) of this
27 subsection;

28 (3) examine the low-barrier shelters identified in item (1) of this
29 subsection to identify their:

- 1 (i) intake policies and practices;
- 2 (ii) residential services;
- 3 (iii) on-site security measures; and
- 4 (iv) discharge policies and practices;

5 (4) identify opportunities for homeless advocates to provide volunteer
6 services inside the low-barrier shelters identified in item (1) of this subsection for the
7 purpose of:

- 8 (i) lowering the average length of stay identified in item (2) of this
9 subsection; and
- 10 (ii) facilitating the transition to permanent housing; and

11 (5) make recommendations for a list of requirements that an advocacy
12 organization seeking to serve in low-barrier shelters should meet before providing
13 volunteer services.

14 (h) On or before December 31, 2019, the Task Force shall report its findings and
15 recommendations to the Mayor of Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Council, the
16 Governor, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
17 Assembly.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
19 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
20 30, 2020, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
21 abrogated and of no further force and effect.