

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 1032

(Senator Nathan-Pulliam)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Appropriations

Morgan State University - Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity - Extension

This bill extends the date by which the Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University (MSU) must submit a full report on the activities, findings, and recommendations of the Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity from January 31, 2020, to January 31, 2021. The bill also extends the termination date of the task force by one year from May 31, 2020, to May 31, 2021.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for MSU due to extending the task force by a year are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. The bill is not otherwise anticipated to materially impact State government operations or finances.

Local Effect: Local governments can use existing resources if asked to consult with the task force. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapter 417 of 2018 required the Institute for Urban Research at MSU to convene a task force to explore issues of reconciliation, inclusionary justice, and racial equity. The task force must consult with specified State agencies and may consult with other units of State or local government, as appropriate. On request of the task force, a unit of State government must provide information or staff support in a

timely manner or designate a representative to serve as a member of the task force or attend a meeting or hearing of the task force.

To the extent practicable, the members of the task force must have expertise in the historical and current impacts of institutional and structural racism as well as racial equity issues and reflect the geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the State. The institute must select a chair from among the members of the task force. A member of the task force may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

The purpose of the task force is to foster reconciliation and inclusionary justice and work toward achieving racial equity by (1) increasing awareness through public discussions about the nature, extent, causes, and consequences of racial inequities; (2) involving individuals and public and private entities, including African American and other minority groups, in every sector throughout the State in a collective process; (3) fostering racial equity through recognition, understanding, adjustment, compromise, and repair; and (4) recommending strategies, changes, and actions in institutions, policies, and laws to eliminate systemic racism and promote equity, access, and opportunity that can lead to healing and foster reconciliation.

The task force is required to:

- hold hearings at various locations throughout the State and receive testimony, as specified;
- study (1) the nature of racism, sexism in the experience of racial inequities, and institutional bias throughout the State; (2) manifestations of institutional and structural racism; (3) the impact of institutional and structural racism, as specified; (4) past and ongoing efforts to promote human rights and social and inclusionary justice; and (5) best practices throughout the United States regarding policies, laws, and systems designed to eliminate institutional and structural racism and sexism and foster repair for those impacted;
- identify the criteria to be used in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the strategies and changes in institutions, policies, and laws recommended by the task force;
- make recommendations regarding strategies, changes, and actions in State institutions, policies, and laws to improve race relations, eliminate institutional and structural racism and gender inequities, and support repair and justice, including specified measures; and

- monitor and evaluate the implementation of the recommended strategies and changes in State institutions, policies, and laws using the criteria developed by the task force.

A person, including an employer, may not retaliate against an individual for giving testimony at a hearing held by the task force.

According to the [Preliminary Report of the Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity convened by the Institute for Urban Research at MSU](#), which was published in February 2019, the task force held three meetings in 2018 and has held one meeting so far in 2019. It also established subcommittees on economic justice, education, faith communities, and public health. From February through July 2019, the task force plans include continuing to study the existing literature on reconciliation and equity, exploring expanding representation on subcommittees, and developing operational capacity.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Commission on Civil Rights; Morgan State University; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

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