

Chapter 618

(House Bill 735)

AN ACT concerning

**Task Force on the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority –
Reestablishment**

FOR the purpose of reestablishing the Task Force on the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority; providing for the composition, chair, staffing, and purpose of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to consult with certain entities and study and make recommendations on certain matters; requiring the Department of General Services to conduct a certain appraisal for a certain purpose; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; defining a certain term; making this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority.

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

(a) In this section, “Authority” means the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority.

(b) The Task Force on the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority, originally established by Chapter 789 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2018, is reestablished.

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Task Force consists of the following members:

- (i) the Chair of the Authority, or the Chair’s designee;
- (ii) a member of the Allegany County Delegation to the General Assembly, appointed by the Chair of the Allegany County Delegation;
- (iii) the Mayor of the City of Cumberland, or the Mayor’s designee;
- (iv) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary’s designee;
- (v) the Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary’s designee;
- (vi) the Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary’s designee; and

(vii) a current leaseholder at the Shops at Canal Place, appointed by the Executive Director of the Authority.

(2) To the extent practicable, the members shall be the same as the members originally appointed to the Task Force under Chapter 789 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2018.

(d) The individual elected to serve as chair of the Task Force under Chapter 789 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2018 shall continue as chair of the Task Force.

(e) The Maryland Department of Planning shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(f) 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.

(g) (1) The purpose of the Task Force is to:

(i) complete the work begun by the Task Force under Chapter 789 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2018; and

(ii) determine how to alter the powers of the Authority as a State agency established under Title 13, Subtitle 10 of the Financial Institutions Article in order to align the mission and purpose of the Canal Place Heritage Area with that of other certified heritage areas under Title 13, Subtitle 11 of the Financial Institutions Article.

(2) The Task Force shall, at a minimum:

(i) determine the most feasible method to restructure or continue the operations of the Authority as a State entity;

(ii) determine the best method for the disposition of the assets of the Authority, which may include:

1. the transfer of all or part of the assets to another State agency under § 10–304 of the State Finance and Procurement Article; and

2. the sale and transfer of all or part of the assets to a private entity, which must provide the current leaseholders of the Shops at Canal Place with a right of first refusal on the sale or transfer of the Shops at Canal Place;

(iii) determine the best method for the transfer of all leases held and

maintained by the Authority;

(iv) examine the effect of the Task Force's recommendations on State employees at the Authority;

(v) examine the costs associated with the dissolution of the Authority;

(vi) consult with the United States Department of the Interior and other applicable federal entities regarding the disposition of Authority assets;

(vii) undertake any other studies or examinations deemed necessary; and

(viii) recommend draft legislation to implement the conclusions of the Task Force.

(3) (i) In order to carry out the Task Force's duties, on or before July 1, 2020, the Department of General Services shall conduct an independent appraisal of the property owned and maintained by the Authority.

(ii) The appraisal required under this paragraph shall be used to issue a Request for Expressions of Interest to determine the external interest in the purchase of any or all assets managed by the Authority.

(h) On or before September 1, 2020, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through June 30, 2021, and, at the end of June 30, 2021, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.