

HOUSE BILL 681

D1, N2
HB 339/20 – JUD

1lr2253

By: **Delegate Buckel**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2021

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Maryland Orphans' Courts**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Maryland Orphans' Courts;
4 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a
5 member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
6 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make
7 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its
8 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
9 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
10 to the Task Force to Study the Maryland Orphans' Courts.

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Maryland Orphans' Courts.

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

15 (1) two members appointed by the President of the Senate;

16 (2) two members appointed by the Speaker of the House;

17 (3) one member appointed by the Maryland Judiciary;

18 (4) one member appointed by the Register of Wills Association;

19 (5) one member appointed by the Maryland Bar Association;

20 (6) an orphans' court judge residing in a jurisdiction of more than 250,000
21 people, appointed by the Governor; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (7) an orphans' court judge residing in a jurisdiction of less than 250,000
2 people, appointed by the Governor.

3 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

4 (d) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Task Force.

5 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

9 (f) The Task Force shall:

10 (1) examine the composition and purpose of the orphans' courts in
11 Maryland;

12 (2) review and compare the orphans' courts in each local jurisdiction in
13 Maryland;

14 (3) analyze and compare the laws and practices of other states relating to
15 probate courts;

16 (4) examine any other research, analysis, or guidance related to the best
17 practices of probate courts; and

18 (5) make recommendations to improve the orphans' courts in Maryland.

19 (g) On or before January 1, 2022, the Task Force shall report its findings and
20 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
21 Government Article, the General Assembly.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
23 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2022, this
24 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
25 further force and effect.