

SENATE BILL 953

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By: **Senator Augustine**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2021

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Domestic Terrorism Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Domestic Terrorism Task Force; providing for the
4 composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task
5 Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of
6 certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and develop a plan to establish
7 a statewide communication network for threats of domestic terrorism; requiring the
8 Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
9 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this
10 Act; and generally relating to the Domestic Terrorism Task Force.

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

13 (a) There is a Domestic Terrorism Task Force.

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

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

17 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
18 the House;

19 (3) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

20 (4) the Executive Director of the Maryland Emergency Management
21 Agency, or the Executive Director's designee;

22 (5) the Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, or the
23 Director's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (6) the Adjutant General of the Governor's Military Staff, or the Adjutant
2 General's designee;

3 (7) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;

4 (8) the Director of the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, or the
5 Director's designee;

6 (9) one representative from the Maryland Association of Counties,
7 appointed by the Executive Director of the Association; and

8 (10) one representative from the Maryland Municipal League, appointed by
9 the Director of the League.

10 (c) The Attorney General also shall invite, as appropriate, the following
11 representatives of federal agencies to serve on the Task Force:

12 (1) the Director of the National Security Agency, or the Director's designee;

13 (2) the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Secretary's designee;

14 (3) the Director of the Defense Information Systems Agency, or the
15 Director's designee; and

16 (4) any other federal agency that the Attorney General determines
17 appropriate.

18 (d) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly
19 designate the chair and vice chair of the Task Force from among the members appointed
20 by the President and the Speaker.

21 (e) The Maryland Emergency Management Agency shall provide staff for the
22 Task Force.

23 (f) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

27 (g) The Task Force shall:

28 (1) review the existing networks in the State to communicate threats of
29 domestic terrorism to the public and between State and federal governmental entities;

1 (2) review the networks to communicate threats of domestic terrorism in
2 other states and jurisdictions;

3 (3) review the best practices for implementing and providing a statewide
4 network to communicate threats of domestic terrorism to the public and between State and
5 federal governmental entities;

6 (4) identify solutions to any limitations or feasibility issues with
7 implementing or providing a statewide network to communicate threats of domestic
8 terrorism to the public and between State and federal governmental entities;

9 (5) study and develop a plan for implementing and providing a statewide
10 network to communicate threats of domestic terrorism to the public and between State and
11 federal governmental entities;

12 (6) identify the appropriate State agency to oversee a statewide network to
13 communicate threats of domestic terrorism to the public; and

14 (7) develop a plan to notify the public of threats of domestic terrorism in a
15 timely manner.

16 (h) On or before October 1, 2022, the Task Force shall report its findings and
17 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
18 Government Article, the General Assembly.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end
21 of October 31, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
22 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.