

Chapter 525

(House Bill 681)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study the Maryland Orphans' Courts

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Maryland Orphans' Courts; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing 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 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Maryland Orphans' Courts.

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

- (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Maryland Orphans' Courts.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:
 - (1) two members appointed by the President of the Senate;
 - (2) two members appointed by the Speaker of the House;
 - (3) ~~one member appointed by the Maryland Judiciary;~~
 - ~~(4)~~ one member appointed by the Register of Wills Association;
 - ~~(5)~~ (4) one member appointed by the Maryland Bar Association;
 - ~~(6)~~ (5) an orphans' court judge residing in a jurisdiction of more than 250,000 people, appointed by the Governor; and
 - ~~(7)~~ (6) an orphans' court judge residing in a jurisdiction of less than 250,000 people, appointed by the Governor.
- (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- (d) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- (e) 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.

(f) The Task Force shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2022, 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 30, 2021.