

HOUSE BILL 274

J3, J1

3lr2363
CF 3lr1068

By: **Delegates Bhandari, Forbes, A. Johnson, S. Johnson, and Kaiser**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2023

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait
4 Times to study best practices for reducing emergency department wait times; and
5 generally relating to the Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait
6 Times.

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

9 (a) There is a Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times.

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

11 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
12 the Senate;

13 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
14 House;

15 (3) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee; and

16 (4) the following four members, appointed by the Governor:

17 (i) one representative from the Maryland Hospital Association;

18 (ii) two representatives of patient advocacy organizations; and

19 (iii) one individual who is employed as medical staff in an emergency
20 department.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

2 (d) The Maryland Department of Health shall provide staff for the Task Force.

3 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

7 (f) The Task Force shall:

8 (1) identify potential solutions to reduce excessive wait times in emergency
9 departments in the State;

10 (2) study best practices for emergency department staffing, triage, and bed
11 availability in states that:

12 (i) have a population similar to Maryland;

13 (ii) have at least one city of approximately 500,000 residents; and

14 (iii) rank within the top 50% of states in shortest emergency room
15 wait time; and

16 (3) make recommendations regarding best practices for reducing
17 emergency department wait times that should be implemented in the State.

18 (g) On or before January 1, 2024, the Task Force shall report its findings and
19 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
20 Government Article, the General Assembly.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
22 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
23 30, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
24 abrogated and of no further force and effect.