

# HOUSE BILL 1030

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By: **Delegates Young, Addison, Attar, Bartlett, Bridges, Charles, Conaway, Crutchfield, Davis, Edelson, Phillips, Vogel, and Williams**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Murder Prevention and Reduction in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Murder Prevention and Reduction  
4 in Maryland; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Murder Prevention  
5 and Reduction in Maryland.

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

8 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Murder Prevention and Reduction in  
9 Maryland.

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

11 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
12 the Senate;

13 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
14 the House;

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

16 (4) two representatives of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association, designated  
17 by the Executive Director;

18 (5) two representatives from the Maryland Office of the Public Defender,  
19 designated by the Public Defender; and

20 (6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) one representative from the State Board of Education;
- 2 (ii) one representative from the Department of Housing and  
3 Community Development;
- 4 (iii) one representative from the Maryland Department of Health;
- 5 (iv) three representatives from State social services agencies;
- 6 (v) three representatives from local community organizations; and
- 7 (vi) three members of different communities from business, industry,  
8 labor, religious, welfare, education, or other major groups or interests in their communities.
- 9 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 10 (d) The Office of the Governor shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- 11 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 12 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 13 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
14 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 15 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 16 (1) study the causes of murder in the State by conducting a comprehensive  
17 examination of factors contributing to homicides, including:
- 18 (i) socioeconomic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and  
19 income inequality;
- 20 (ii) access to firearms and illegal gun trafficking;
- 21 (iii) gang and organized crime activity;
- 22 (iv) domestic violence and intimate partner violence;
- 23 (v) mental illness, substance abuse, and childhood trauma; and
- 24 (vi) systemic racism and discrimination of marginalized  
25 communities;
- 26 (2) examine the impact of community-based violence prevention programs  
27 that engage youth, families, and communities;

1 (3) examine the effectiveness of current laws relating to firearms,  
2 background checks, and domestic violence;

3 (4) review accessibility to mental health and substance abuse treatment;

4 (5) review law enforcement, community collaboration, and restorative  
5 justice programs;

6 (6) examine the influence of systemic racism and discrimination on  
7 violence in marginalized communities;

8 (7) study any other factors that the Task Force considers relevant; and

9 (8) make recommendations regarding:

10 (i) ways to increase the number of community programs to address  
11 the root causes of violence;

12 (ii) ways to strengthen laws related to firearms and risk assessment  
13 tools;

14 (iii) ways to expand access to mental health services and telehealth  
15 services;

16 (iv) ways to enhance law enforcement and community collaboration;

17 (v) ways to promote equality and justice for marginalized  
18 communities and end discriminatory policing practices; and

19 (vi) any other matters the Task Force considers relevant.

20 (g) (1) On or before December 1, 2023, the Task Force shall submit an interim  
21 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention,  
22 Youth, and Victim Services and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government  
23 Article, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, and  
24 the General Assembly.

25 (2) On or before December 1, 2024, the Task Force shall submit a final  
26 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention,  
27 Youth, and Victim Services and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government  
28 Article, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, and  
29 the General Assembly.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
31 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2025,  
32 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
33 of no further force and effect.

