J24lr3046

By: Senator McKay

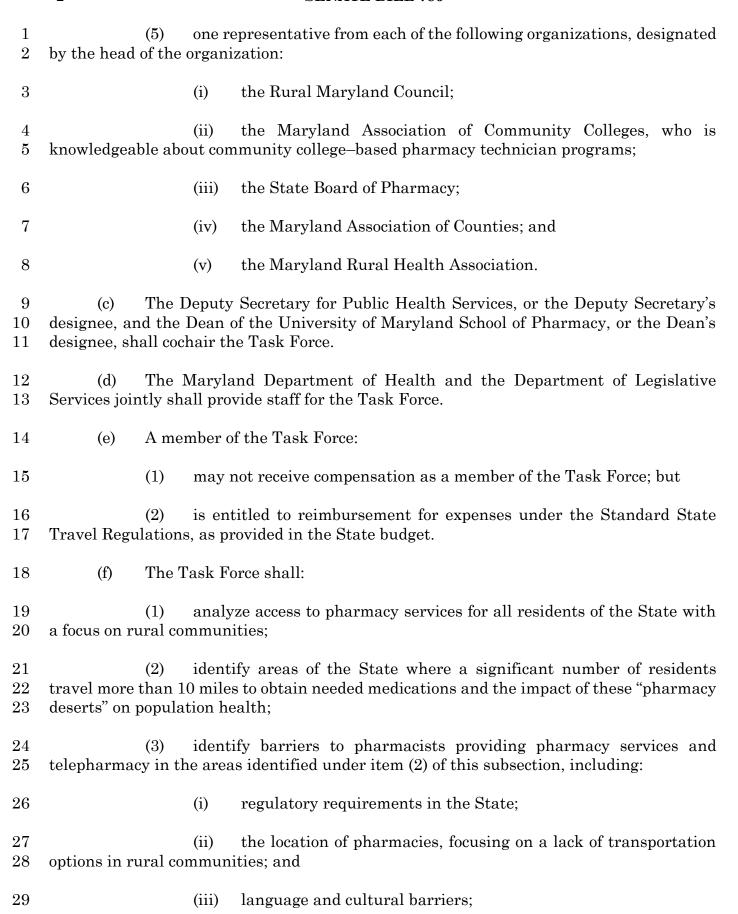
Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning 2 Task Force on Access to Pharmacy Services and the Impact of Telepharmacy in 3 Maryland FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Access to Pharmacy Services and the 4 5 Impact of Telepharmacy in Maryland to analyze access to pharmacy services, 6 barriers to pharmacy services and telepharmacy, 7 recommendations on methods to increase access to pharmacy services and the use of 8 telepharmacy in the State; and generally relating to pharmacy services and 9 telepharmacy. 10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, 11 That: 12 There is a Task Force on Access to Pharmacy Services and the Impact of 13 Telepharmacy in Maryland. 14 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members: 15 (1) the Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services, or the Deputy 16 Secretary's designee; 17 the Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or the (2) 18 Secretary's designee; 19 the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, or the 20 Dean's designee; 21**(4)** a pharmacist who serves a rural community in the State, appointed by 22 the cochairs of the Task Force; and





- 1 (4) analyze the specific impact of each barrier identified under item (3) of 2 this subsection;
- 3 (5) assess options to eliminate the barriers identified under item (3) of this 4 subsection, including by:
- 5 (i) assessing existing educational opportunities, if any, for 6 pharmacists and pharmacy-related occupations and determining the feasibility of 7 expanding educational opportunities in the State for pharmacists and the study of 8 pharmacy-related occupations, including pharmacy technicians; and
- 9 (ii) examining other states that have lessened restrictions on 10 telepharmacy and whether access to pharmacy services improved in those states; and
- 11 (6) make recommendations regarding methods for increasing access to pharmacy services and the use of telepharmacy in the State.
- 13 (g) (1) On or before May 1, 2025, the Task Force shall submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.
- 17 (2) On or before December 1, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a final 18 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee and the House 20 Health and Government Operations Committee.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.