

Chapter 588

(House Bill 964)

AN ACT concerning

Montgomery County – Task Force on the Displacement of Residents of Emory Grove**MC 5–25**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Displacement of Residents of Emory Grove to study how urban renewal caused the displacement of residents from the Emory Grove community and make recommendations on potential remedies for those who were displaced by urban renewal; and generally relating to the Task Force on the Displacement of Residents of Emory Grove.

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

- (a) There is a Task Force on the Displacement of Residents of Emory Grove.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:
 - (1) the Director of the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights;
 - (2) the Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, or the Chair's designee;
 - (3)
 - (i) the Executive Director of the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County; or
 - (ii) a member of the Board of Commissioners, designated by the Executive Director;
 - (4) one member of ~~the Montgomery County Historical Society~~ Montgomery History, designated by ~~the Society~~ Montgomery History;
 - (5) one member who has professional experience in issues of discrimination or housing, appointed by the Montgomery County Council;
 - (6) one member who has professional experience in issues of discrimination or housing, appointed by the Montgomery County Executive;
 - (7) one member of the Montgomery County Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee, designated by the Committee;

(8) the Pastor of the Emory Grove United Methodist Church; and

(9) one member who is a former resident of the Emory Grove community and lived in the community at any time between 1960 and 1985, designated by the Pastor of the Emory Grove United Methodist Church.

(c) The Director of the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights shall serve as the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Montgomery County Office of Human Rights shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) (1) The Task Force shall hold its first meeting not later than July 1, 2025, and meet at least quarterly thereafter.

(2) The Task Force may hold additional meetings as determined necessary by the chair.

(f) 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.

(g) The Task Force shall:

(1) review and analyze the displacement of residents of Emory Grove under the urban renewal program carried out from 1960 through 1985 in order to:

(i) determine the basis for the development of the Emory Grove urban renewal program and the guidelines and execution of the program, including how property was acquired or purchased from landowners;

(ii) analyze the way urban renewal was administered in Emory Grove;

(iii) analyze the decisions to use the urban renewal program in Emory Grove and the equity impacts of the program;

(iv) analyze the guidelines and execution of the urban renewal program in Emory Grove, including the purchase of property from landowners and the demolition of homes;

(v) determine the basis for the purchase of property from landowners in Emory Grove and identify the details of land purchases, including the purchase prices and purchase agreements; and

(vi) analyze the plan for providing replacement properties or new homeownership for the displaced residents of Emory Grove and the equity impacts of the plan, including proposed dates to provide new replacement properties and incentives or benefits for previous landowners; and

(2) if deemed appropriate by the Task Force, recommend remedies for past inequities in the purchase of land by Montgomery County through the urban renewal program in Emory Grove from 1960 to 1985, including methods for determining eligibility and providing compensation, such as benefits for former landowners and incentives for construction projects.

(h) (1) On or before December 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Montgomery County Council, the Montgomery County Executive, and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly.

(2) On or before December 15, 2026, the Task Force shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Montgomery County Council, the Montgomery County Executive, and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2025.