

HOUSE BILL 427

J1

(6lr2063)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Health/Finance* —

Introduced by **Delegates Guzzone, Bagnall, Boyce, Embry, Foley, Hill, Hutchinson, Moreno, Terrasa, and Ziegler**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances – Extension**
3 ***and Membership***

4 FOR the purpose of extending the Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic
5 Substances to study and make recommendations related to the use of natural
6 psychedelic substances; adding a representative of a historically Black college or
7 university in the State to the Task Force; and generally relating to the Task Force on
8 Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Chapter 793 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024
11 Section 1 and 2

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Chapter 793 of the Acts of 2024**

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

6 (a) (1) In this section, “natural psychedelic substances” includes naturally
7 derived psilocybin, psilocin, dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and any other substance
8 determined by the Task Force to be a natural psychedelic substance.

9 (2) “Natural psychedelic substances” does not include peyote.

10 (b) There is a Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances.

11 (c) The Task Force consists of the following members:

12 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland who shall be appointed by the
13 President of the Senate;

14 (2) one member of the House of Delegates who shall be appointed by the
15 Speaker of the House;

16 (3) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary’s designee;

17 (4) the Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary’s designee;

18 (5) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary’s designee;

19 (6) the Director of the Maryland Cannabis Administration, or the
20 Director’s designee; and

21 (7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) one representative of the University System of Maryland, the
23 Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Psychedelic and Consciousness Research, or
24 Sheppard Pratt;

25 (ii) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE**
26 **OR UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE;**

27 **(III)** one representative of a Native American tribe with experience in
28 the religious and spiritual use of psychedelic substances;

29 ~~(iii)~~ **(IV)** one individual with expertise in behavioral health;

- 1 ~~(iv)~~ **(V)** one individual with expertise in the treatment of
2 substance use disorders;
- 3 ~~(v)~~ **(VI)** one individual with expertise in the treatment of chronic
4 pain;
- 5 ~~(vi)~~ **(VII)** one individual with expertise in psychedelic–assisted
6 psychotherapy;
- 7 ~~(vii)~~ **(VIII)** one individual with expertise in psychedelic research;
- 8 ~~(viii)~~ **(IX)** one individual with expertise in access to care in
9 underserved communities;
- 10 ~~(ix)~~ **(X)** one individual with expertise in drug policy reform;
- 11 ~~(x)~~ **(XI)** one individual with expertise as a member of law
12 enforcement;
- 13 ~~(xi)~~ **(XII)** one individual who is a patient with conditions that can be
14 treated with psychedelic substances;
- 15 ~~(xii)~~ **(XIII)** one individual with experience with the pharmacology of
16 natural psychedelic substances; and
- 17 ~~(xiii)~~ **(XIV)** one physician with experience with the appropriate use of
18 psychedelic substances and other integrative medical practices.
- 19 (d) To the extent practicable, the membership of the Task Force shall reflect the
20 socioeconomic, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State.
- 21 (e) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 22 (f) The Maryland Cannabis Administration shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- 23 (g) A member of the Task Force:
- 24 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 25 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
26 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 27 (h) The Task Force shall:
- 28 (1) study:

- 1 (i) existing laws, policies, and practices relating to the use of natural
2 psychedelic substances;
- 3 (ii) the best available science and data on public benefits of
4 responsible access to and use of natural psychedelic substances;
- 5 (iii) opportunities to maximize public benefits of responsible access to
6 and use of natural psychedelic substances;
- 7 (iv) the best available data on potential risks of access to and use of
8 natural psychedelic substances;
- 9 (v) opportunities to mitigate potential risks of access to and use of
10 natural psychedelic substances; and
- 11 (vi) barriers health care practitioners and facilitators may encounter
12 relating to natural psychedelic substances, including barriers relating to insurance,
13 restrictions by licensing and credentialing entities, zoning, advertising, and financial
14 services;
- 15 (2) make recommendations regarding any changes to State law, policy, and
16 practices needed to create a Maryland Natural Psychedelic Substance Access Program that
17 enables broad, equitable, and affordable access to psychedelic substances, including:
- 18 (i) permitting requirements, including requirements regarding
19 education and safety;
- 20 (ii) access to treatment and regulated support; and
- 21 (iii) production of natural psychedelic substances; and
- 22 (3) make recommendations to transition from criminalizing conduct
23 involving natural psychedelic substances, including:
- 24 (i) punishing with civil penalties nonviolent infractions involving
25 the planting, cultivating, purchasing, transporting, distributing, or possessing of or other
26 engagement with natural psychedelic substances;
- 27 (ii) expunging the records of Marylanders with convictions for
28 nonviolent criminal offenses relating to natural psychedelic substances; and
- 29 (iii) releasing Marylanders incarcerated for nonviolent criminal
30 offenses relating to natural psychedelic substances.
- 31 (i) The Task Force may consult with experts and stakeholders in conducting its
32 duties.

1 (j) (1) On or before July 31, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a report of its
2 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
3 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

4 (2) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 31, 2026, THE TASK FORCE SHALL
5 SUBMIT AN UPDATED REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
6 GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
7 ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of [2] 3 years and 6 months and, at the end of
10 December 31, [2026] 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General
11 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.