

HOUSE BILL 1797

O1

8lr3936
CF 8lr3937

By: **Delegate Glenn**

Introduced and read first time: March 5, 2018

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Improve Baltimore City Homeless Transitions From Low-Barrier**
3 **Shelters to Permanent Housing**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Improve Baltimore City Homeless
5 Transitions from Low-Barrier Shelters to Permanent Housing; providing for the
6 composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task
7 Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of
8 certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study certain matters related to
9 low-barrier shelters and make certain recommendations on volunteering; requiring
10 the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor of Baltimore
11 City, the Baltimore City Council, the Governor, and the General Assembly on or
12 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
13 to the Task Force to Improve Baltimore City Homeless Transitions from
14 Low-Barrier Shelters to Permanent Housing.

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

17 (a) In this section, “low-barrier shelter” means a shelter for a homeless individual
18 that does not screen the individual, including requiring the individual to pass a drug test,
19 before providing shelter.

20 (b) There is a Task Force to Improve Baltimore City Homeless Transitions from
21 Low-Barrier Shelters to Permanent Housing.

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

23 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland who represents Baltimore City,
24 appointed by the President of the Senate;

25 (2) one member of the House of Delegates who represents Baltimore City,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

2 (3) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

3 (i) one member of the Advisory Board on Homelessness from
4 Baltimore City, or, if no such member exists, one member of the Advisory Board from a
5 congressional district in the State that includes Baltimore City in its boundaries;

6 (ii) one member from a list of names submitted to the Governor by
7 the Baltimore City Senate Delegation to the General Assembly; and

8 (iii) one member from a list of names submitted to the Governor by
9 the Baltimore City House Delegation to the General Assembly;

10 (4) one member appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore City; and

11 (5) one member appointed by the President of the Baltimore City Council,
12 chosen from a list of names submitted by the Baltimore City Council.

13 (d) The Mayor of Baltimore City shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

14 (e) The Office of the Mayor of Baltimore City shall provide staff for the Task
15 Force.

16 (f) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

20 (g) The Task Force shall:

21 (1) identify all low-barrier shelters that are:

22 (i) funded by Baltimore City; or

23 (ii) located within Baltimore City;

24 (2) gather the data necessary to develop an estimate of the average number
25 of days homeless individuals spend in low-barrier shelters identified in item (1) of this
26 subsection;

27 (3) examine the low-barrier shelters identified in item (1) of this
28 subsection to identify their:

29 (i) intake policies and practices;

1 (ii) residential services;

2 (iii) on-site security measures; and

3 (iv) discharge policies and practices;

4 (4) identify opportunities for homeless advocates to provide volunteer
5 services inside the low-barrier shelters identified in item (1) of this subsection for the
6 purpose of:

7 (i) lowering the average length of stay identified in item (2) of this
8 subsection; and

9 (ii) facilitating the transition to permanent housing; and

10 (5) make recommendations for a list of requirements that an advocacy
11 organization seeking to serve in low-barrier shelters should meet before providing
12 volunteer services.

13 (h) On or before December 31, 2018, the Task Force shall report its findings and
14 recommendations to the Mayor of Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Council, the
15 Governor, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
16 Assembly.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
18 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month, and, at the end of June
19 30, 2019, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
20 abrogated and of no further force and effect.