

HOUSE BILL 903

O2, J1

11r2300

By: **Delegate Bridges**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Maryland Public Guardianship Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Maryland Public
4 Guardianship Program; providing for the composition, co-chairs, and staffing of the
5 Task Force; authorizing the co-chairs of the Task Force to appoint additional
6 members to the Task Force as deemed necessary by the co-chairs; prohibiting a
7 member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
8 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make
9 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its
10 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
11 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
12 to the Task Force to Study the Maryland Public Guardianship Program.

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

- 15 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Maryland Public Guardianship Program.
- 16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:
- 17 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;
- 19 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House;
- 21 (3) the Secretary of Aging, or the Secretary's designee; and
- 22 (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 23 (i) six representatives of urban, rural, and suburban local Area

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Agencies on Aging;

2 (ii) one representative of the National Association of Area Agencies
3 on Aging;

4 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Commission on Aging;

5 (iv) one representative of the Elder Law and Disability Rights
6 Section of the Maryland State Bar Association;

7 (v) one physician or nurse practitioner with expertise in advance
8 care planning; and

9 (vi) two representatives of senior advocacy programs, organizations,
10 or nonprofits in the State.

11 (c) (1) The member of the Senate of Maryland and the member of the House
12 of Delegates shall co-chair the Task Force.

13 (2) The co-chairs of the Task Force may appoint additional members to the
14 Task Force as considered necessary by the co-chairs.

15 (d) The Department of Aging shall provide staff for the Task Force.

16 (e) 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 (f) The Task Force shall:

21 (1) assess and analyze the Maryland Public Guardianship Program;

22 (2) compare the practices of local Area Agencies on Aging relating to the
23 Maryland Public Guardianship Program;

24 (3) analyze and compare the laws and practices of other states relating to
25 public guardianship programs;

26 (4) examine any other research, analysis, or guidance related to the best
27 practices of public guardianship programs; and

28 (5) make recommendations to improve the Maryland Public Guardianship
29 Program.

1 (g) On or before January 1, 2022, the Task Force shall report its findings and
2 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
3 Government Article, the General Assembly.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2022, this
6 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
7 further force and effect.