

SENATE BILL 977

J3, J1

3lr3099
CF HB 1501

By: ~~Senator Pipkin~~ **Senators Pipkin, Astle, Glassman, Kittleman, Klausmeier,
and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2013

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Finance, March 7, 2013

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2013

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Evaluate Regional Health Delivery and Health Planning in**
3 **Rural Areas**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Evaluate Regional Health Delivery
5 and Health Planning in Rural Areas; providing for the composition, cochairs,
6 and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from
7 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain
8 expenses; requiring the Task Force to evaluate regional health delivery and
9 health planning in rural areas, with a certain emphasis, to include certain items
10 in its evaluation, and to make certain recommendations; requiring the Task
11 Force to ~~report~~ submit certain reports of its findings and recommendations to
12 the Governor and certain legislative committees on or before ~~a certain date~~
13 certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
14 the Task Force to Evaluate Regional Health Delivery and Health Planning in
15 Rural Areas.

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

18 (a) There is a Task Force to Evaluate Regional Health Delivery and Health
19 Planning in Rural Areas.

20 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

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.



1 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, both of whom shall
2 represent a rural jurisdiction in the State, and one of whom shall be a member of the
3 minority party of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

4 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, both of whom shall
5 represent a rural jurisdiction in the State, and one of whom shall be a member of the
6 minority party of the House, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

7 (3) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
8 designee;

9 (4) the Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission,
10 or the Executive Director's designee;

11 (5) the Executive Director of the Health Services Cost Review
12 Commission, or the Executive Director's designee;

13 (6) the Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for Emergency
14 Medical Services Systems, or the Executive Director's designee;

15 (7) the Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for Southern
16 Maryland;

17 (8) the Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for Western
18 Maryland;

19 (9) the Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for the Lower
20 Eastern Shore of Maryland;

21 (10) the Executive Director of the Mid-Shore Regional Council;

22 (11) the Executive Director of the Upper Shore Regional Council;

23 (12) three health officers, one of whom shall be from an Eastern Shore
24 county, one of whom shall be from a Western Maryland county, and one of whom shall
25 be from a Southern Maryland county, appointed by the Secretary of Health and
26 Mental Hygiene; and

27 (13) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

28 (i) six county commissioners or county council members, two of
29 whom shall be from the Eastern Shore, two of whom shall be from Western Maryland,
30 and two of whom shall be from Southern Maryland, nominated by the Maryland
31 Association of Counties;

1 (ii) one representative of the Medical Chirurgical Society of
2 Maryland;

3 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Hospital Association;
4 ~~and~~

5 (iv) two representatives of the health insurance industry; and

6 (v) one representative from a federally qualified health center
7 from the Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, or Western Maryland.

8 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall appoint
9 one member of the Senate of Maryland and one member of the House of Delegates,
10 respectively, to cochair the Task Force.

11 (d) The ~~Department of Health and Mental Hygiene~~ Maryland Health Care
12 Commission shall provide staff for the Task Force.

13 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

17 (f) The Task Force shall:

18 (1) evaluate regional health delivery and health planning in rural
19 areas, with a specific emphasis on large hospital systems acquiring or affiliating with
20 smaller hospitals or hospital systems;

21 (2) include in its evaluation:

22 (i) the appropriateness of current designations of health
23 planning regions for particular health services in rural areas;

24 (ii) the adequacy of the health care workforce, particularly
25 among physicians, nurses, behavioral health care providers, and allied health
26 professionals, in rural areas;

27 (iii) the barriers to accessibility of health care services, due to
28 distance;

29 (iv) the adequacy of transportation for health care services;

30 (v) the adequacy of health care services for persons with
31 disabilities and the homeless;

1 ~~(v)~~ (vi) the effect of the increasing concentration of hospital
2 and other services under large urban-based hospital systems on availability and
3 accessibility of health care services; ~~and~~

4 ~~(vi)~~ (vii) the effect of changes in the health care delivery
5 system on meeting the health care needs of rural areas; and

6 (viii) the state of preparedness of rural communities for
7 implementing the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

8 (3) make recommendations for improvements.

9 (g) (1) On or before January 1, 2014, the Task Force shall ~~report its~~
10 submit an interim report of its preliminary findings and recommendations to the
11 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
12 Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations
13 Committee.

14 (2) On or before December 1, 2014, the Task Force shall submit a final
15 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
16 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee and the
17 House Health and Government Operations Committee.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 July 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the
20 end of ~~June 30~~ December 31, 2014, with no further action required by the General
21 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.