

HOUSE BILL 955

C4, K3

3lr1579
CF SB 888

By: **Delegates Jameson and Kaiser**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2013

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Temporary Disability Insurance Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Temporary Disability
4 Insurance Programs; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the
5 Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
6 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
7 requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain
8 matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to
9 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing
10 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to
11 Study Temporary Disability Insurance Programs.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Temporary Disability Insurance
15 Programs.

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

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
18 President of the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
20 of the House;

21 (3) the Commissioner of the Maryland Insurance Administration, or
22 the Commissioner's designee;

23 (4) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the
2 Secretary's designee;

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

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

6 (i) one representative of the Workers' Compensation
7 Commission;

8 (ii) one representative of the American Cancer Society;

9 (iii) one representative of the Cancer Support Foundation;

10 (iv) two representatives of Maryland labor organizations;

11 (v) one representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;

12 (vi) two members of the business community;

13 (vii) three members of the insurance industry, including one
14 member of the temporary disability insurance industry; and

15 (viii) one member of the public.

16 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

17 (d) The Maryland Insurance Administration shall provide staff for the Task
18 Force.

19 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

23 (f) The Task Force shall:

24 (1) study the full complement of benefits available under State and
25 federal law to workers and recently unemployed individuals in Maryland who become
26 disabled due to nonwork-related illness or injury;

27 (2) study the wage replacement benefits available to a worker or a
28 recently unemployed individual in Maryland who becomes disabled due to
29 nonwork-related illness or injury;

1 (3) study the availability and sufficiency of wage replacement benefits
2 available to workers and recently unemployed individuals in Maryland who become
3 disabled due to nonwork–related cancer;

4 (4) study the exclusivity and exhaustion of benefit standards that
5 limit the level or extent of benefits that a worker or a recently unemployed individual
6 in Maryland who becomes disabled due to nonwork–related illness or injury may
7 receive;

8 (5) study and compare temporary disability insurance programs in
9 other jurisdictions in terms of:

10 (i) coverage;

11 (ii) eligibility requirements and limitations;

12 (iii) minimum and maximum benefit threshold amounts;

13 (iv) costs to employers, employees, and administrators;

14 (v) funding mechanisms;

15 (vi) administration; and

16 (vii) appeals processes;

17 (6) make recommendations regarding potential costs and benefits to
18 the State’s workforce of establishing a temporary disability insurance program; and

19 (7) make recommendations regarding the potential structure,
20 administration, eligibility standards, and funding mechanisms for a temporary
21 disability insurance program in Maryland.

22 (g) On or before December 1, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings
23 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State
24 Government Article, the General Assembly.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
27 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
28 abrogated and of no further force and effect.