

SENATE BILL 776

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CF HB 934

By: ~~Senator Pugh~~ **Senators Pugh, Garagiola, Glassman, Kelley, Kittleman,
Klausmeier, Mathias, Middleton, Pipkin, and Ramirez**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2013

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 12, 2013

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Use of Telehealth to Improve Maryland Health Care**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Use of Telehealth to Improve
4 Maryland Health Care; providing for the membership, co-chairs, and staffing of
5 the Task Force; providing for the duties of the Task Force; providing that a
6 member of the Task Force may not receive certain compensation but is entitled
7 to certain reimbursement; requiring the Task Force to provide certain reports to
8 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for
9 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on the Use
10 of Telehealth to Improve Maryland Health Care.

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force on the Use of Telehealth to Improve Maryland
14 Health Care.

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

16 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
17 of the Senate;

18 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;

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

3 (4) the Director of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's
4 Office of Rural Health, or the Director's designee;

5 (5) the ~~Director of Program Development for the Maryland Critical~~
6 ~~Care Network~~ Vice President of Telemedicine – University of Maryland Medical
7 System, or the ~~Director's~~ Vice President's designee;

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

10 (7) the Executive Director of the Rural Health Association, or the
11 Executive Director's designee;

12 (8) the Executive Director of the Rural Maryland Council, or the
13 Executive Director's designee;

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

16 (10) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

17 (i) two representatives from ~~the medical communities~~
18 organizations that serve medically underserved populations in the State or are located
19 in provider shortage underserved areas across the State that include both rural and
20 urban areas;

21 (ii) two consumers or representatives of consumer advocate
22 organizations;

23 (iii) one representative from the State health information
24 exchange;

25 (iv) two representatives of the health insurance industry;

26 (v) two representatives from roundtables established in the
27 State to study telehealth;

28 (vi) one representative from the State's Telemedicine Task Force
29 of 2011;

30 (vii) one individual who provides home health care through
31 telemedicine;

1 (viii) one individual who provides care through a
2 patient-centered medical home;

3 (ix) one individual who provides acute care through
4 telemedicine;

5 (x) one licensed psychiatrist;

6 (xi) one ~~licensed~~ provider of behavioral health services;

7 (xii) one representative of a hospital that is participating in
8 telemedicine; ~~and~~

9 (xiii) one representative of the Governor's Workforce Investment
10 Board;

11 (xiv) two representatives of Federally Qualified Health Centers,
12 including one from a center in a rural area and one from a center in an urban area;

13 (xv) one representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;
14 and

15 (xvi) one representative of the Arc of Maryland.

16 (c) The members appointed by the Presiding Officers of the General
17 Assembly shall co-chair the Task Force.

18 (d) The Maryland Health Care Commission shall provide staff for the Task
19 Force.

20 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

24 (f) The Task Force shall:

25 (1) identify opportunities to use telehealth to improve health status
26 and health care delivery in the State, including an analysis of:

27 (i) underserved populations and areas;

28 (ii) applications for cost-effective telehealth;

1 (iii) innovative service models for diverse care settings to include
2 chronic and acute care; ~~and~~

3 (iv) innovative payment models; and

4 (v) the types of telehealth services that are resulting, or would
5 result, in cost-effective care and improved outcomes for patients in the Medicaid
6 program;

7 (2) assess factors related to telehealth, including an analysis of:

8 (i) supportive uses of electronic health records and the health
9 information exchange;

10 (ii) multimedia uses of products and services for patient
11 engagement, education, and outcomes;

12 (iii) health professional productivity, resources, and shortages;

13 (iv) emerging technology and standards for security; ~~and~~

14 (v) public and private grant funding; and

15 (vi) whether the term “telemedicine”, as defined in § 15-139 of
16 the Insurance Article, should be amended to include a reference to a service, known as
17 an “electronic visit” or “e-visit”, that:

18 1. includes an online medical evaluation and
19 management service;

20 2. is completed using a HIPAA-compliant online
21 connection and a secured Web site or secured electronic mail address for each patient
22 encounter; and

23 3. creates a permanent record of each visit;

24 (3) collaborate with:

25 (i) roundtables established to study telehealth uses in the
26 State;

27 (ii) the Rural Maryland Council; and

28 (iii) any other organization that the co-chairs of the Task Force
29 consider appropriate;

1 (4) review and consider any studies, reports, or other work completed
2 by the roundtables;

3 (5) study any other topic that the Task Force finds necessary to make
4 recommendations regarding the use of telehealth in the State; and

5 (6) make recommendations regarding the use of telehealth in the
6 State, including recommendations for:

7 (i) improving health care affordability, accessibility, and
8 quality;

9 (ii) developing a model for statewide telehealth infrastructure,
10 service, and access;

11 (iii) utilizing public and private grant funding;

12 (iv) providing workforce training; and

13 (v) improving public health.

14 (g) (1) On or before ~~May 1, 2014~~ December 1, 2013, the Task Force shall
15 provide an interim report on the status of the activities of the Task Force to the
16 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
17 General Assembly.

18 (2) On or before December 1, ~~2014~~ 2015, the Task Force shall provide
19 a final report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance
20 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 ~~October~~ June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~1 year and 8 months~~ 3
23 years and, at the end of May 31, ~~2015~~ 2016, with no further action required by the
24 General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.