

Chapter 155

(Senate Bill 297)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long-Term Supports

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long-Term Supports; providing for the composition, staff, and ~~dates~~ duties of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, ~~but~~; authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses for certain members of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long-Term Supports.

Preamble

WHEREAS, Some 770,000 Marylanders are taking care of loved ones, including those who are aging or have failing health; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of older adults who need assistance with activities of daily living want to remain in their homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, Providing services and supports to older adults in their homes and communities is generally much less expensive than nursing home care or adult day care; and

WHEREAS, Almost three-fourths of older adults living in their homes and receiving personal assistance rely exclusively on unpaid caregivers for help; and

WHEREAS, Older adults who receive cost-effective services in their homes are much less likely to need public assistance; and

WHEREAS, To successfully address the surging population of older adults who have significant needs for long-term services and supports, the State must encourage families to assist their aging relatives and develop ways to support families in that undertaking, as well as enhance efforts to recruit and retain a qualified, responsive in-home care workforce; now, therefore,

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

- (a) There is a Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long-Term Supports.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

- (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- (3) one representative of the Department of Human Resources, appointed by the Secretary of Human Resources;
- (4) one representative of the Department of Aging, appointed by the Secretary of Aging;
- (5) one representative of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene;
- (6) one representative of MTA Mobility, appointed by the Secretary of Transportation;
- (7) the health officer or the health officer's designee from a county from each of the following areas:
 - (i) the Eastern Shore;
 - (ii) a suburb of Washington, D.C.;
 - (iii) Western Maryland; and
 - (iv) the Baltimore region;
- (8) one representative of AARP Maryland, appointed by the AARP Maryland State President;
- (9) one representative of the March of Dimes Maryland–National Capital Area, appointed by the Executive Director of the March of Dimes Maryland–National Capital Area;
- (10) one representative of the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Maryland Chapter, appointed by the Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Maryland Chapter;
- (11) one representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland, appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Mental Health Association of Maryland;
- (12) one representative of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland;

(13) one representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Maryland, appointed by the Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Maryland;

(14) one representative of the Hospice and Palliative Care Network of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Board of Directors of the Hospice and Palliative Care Network of Maryland;

(15) one representative of the Maryland Gerontological Association, appointed by the President of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Gerontological Association;

(16) one representative of the Maryland Hospital Association, appointed by the President of the Maryland Hospital Association; ~~and~~

(17) one representative of the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council, appointed by the Chair of the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council;

(18) one representative of LeadingAge Maryland, appointed by the President of LeadingAge Maryland;

(19) one representative of the Maryland–National Capital Home Care Association, appointed by the President of the Maryland–National Capital Home Care Association;

(20) one representative of the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services, appointed by the President of the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services; ~~and~~

(21) one nurse with experience in providing caregiver and long-term supports, appointed by the Maryland Nurses Association; and

~~(17)~~ ~~(21)~~ (22) three family caregivers, appointed by AARP Maryland.

(c) AARP Maryland shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(d) (1) A member of the Task Force;

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

(2) A State–agency affiliated member of the Task Force is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(e) The Task Force shall:

(1) identify policies, resources, and programs available for family caregivers and find additional innovative and creative means to support family caregivers in continuing to provide needed in-home care and assistance for older adults;

(2) receive testimony on the needs of family caregivers, including designation of caregivers, training, respite services, medical leave policies, delegation of tasks to nonmedical aides, and other related policies;

(3) compile an inventory of the resources available to family caregivers;
and

(4) evaluate and recommend actions the State could take, including legislative and administrative actions, to develop, train, and retain a qualified and responsive in-home care workforce.

(f) On or before September 30, 2016, the Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 4 months and, at the end of October 30, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.