

SENATE BILL 1230

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8lr3947

By: **Senator Robinson**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2018

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Investigate the Challenges of and Opportunities for Minorities in**
3 **Business – Report and Sunset Extension**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the date by which the Task Force to Investigate the Challenges
5 of and Opportunities for Minority Business is required to report its findings and
6 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly; extending the
7 termination date of the Task Force; and generally relating to the Task Force to
8 Investigate the Challenges of and Opportunities for Minority Business.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Chapter 480 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016
11 Section 1 and 2

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Chapter 480 of the Acts of 2016**

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

17 (a) In this section, “minority” means an individual of African American, Hispanic,
18 Native American, or Asian descent.

19 (b) There is a Task Force to Investigate the Challenges of and Opportunities for
20 Minorities in Business.

21 (c) The Task Force consists of the following members:

22 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
23 the Senate;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
2 House;
- 3 (3) two members of the Legislative Black Caucus, appointed by the Chair
4 of the Legislative Black Caucus;
- 5 (4) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;
- 6 (5) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary's
7 designee;
- 8 (6) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;
- 9 (7) the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs, or the
10 Special Secretary's designee; and
- 11 (8) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 12 (i) a representative from a certified minority business enterprise
13 that is at least 51% owned and controlled by minorities;
- 14 (ii) a representative from a certified minority business enterprise
15 that is at least 51% owned and controlled by women;
- 16 (iii) an individual with expertise in matters relating to the
17 franchisor–franchisee relationship in the State;
- 18 (iv) a representative from the Maryland Bankers Association;
- 19 (v) a representative from the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;
- 20 (vi) a representative from the Maryland District Office of the federal
21 Small Business Administration; and
- 22 (vii) one member of the general public.
- 23 (d) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 24 (e) Governor's Office of Minority Affairs shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- 25 (f) A member of the Task Force:
- 26 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force, but
- 27 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
28 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

1 (g) The Task Force shall:

2 (1) investigate discriminatory practices against minority- and
3 women-owned businesses, including:

4 (i) reports of minority- and women-owned franchisee
5 discrimination on the national level;

6 (ii) the franchisor-franchisee relationship in the State and whether
7 there is evidence or a pattern of discriminatory treatment of minority- and women-owned
8 franchisees by their respective franchisors; and

9 (iii) incidents of franchise closings in the State to determine whether
10 minority- and women-owned franchises are shut down disproportionately as compared to
11 nonminority- and male-owned franchises;

12 (2) review, examine, and assess issues related to access to working capital
13 for small, minority- and women-owned businesses, including:

14 (i) the working capital needs by industry of those businesses;

15 (ii) the availability of working capital in the marketplace for, and
16 any barriers encountered in gaining access to working capital in the marketplace by, those
17 businesses; and

18 (iii) any resources available through the State to assist those
19 businesses in gaining access to working capital, including technical assistance and training,
20 financial assistance, and partnerships with other entities;

21 (3) review, examine, and assess incentives for business entities that
22 employ ex-felons, including:

23 (i) the best possible incentives to encourage business entities to
24 employ ex-felons; and

25 (ii) the benefits and challenges associated with the long-term
26 employment of ex-felons by business entities; and

27 (4) conduct hearings as considered appropriate.

28 (h) On or before December 31, ~~[2017]~~ **2018**, the Task Force shall report its
29 findings and recommendations, including any recommended legislation to address the
30 findings of the Task Force, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
31 Government Article, the General Assembly.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June

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1 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of [2 years] **3 YEARS** and 1 month and, at the
2 end of June 30, [2018] **2019**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
3 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
5 1, 2018.