

SENATE BILL 532

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CF 0lr1039

By: **Senators Smith, Bailey, Carozza, Cassilly, Edwards, Elfreth, Ellis, Gallion,
Jennings, Patterson, Peters, Ready, Salling, and Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2020

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Veteran–Owned Small Business Enterprise Program**

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

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

14 (a) In this section, “veteran–owned small business enterprise” has the meaning
15 stated in § 14–601 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

16 (b) There is a Task Force to Study the Veteran–Owned Small Business Enterprise
17 Program.

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

19 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
20 the Senate, of whom one shall be the Chair of the Maryland Senate Veterans Caucus, or
21 the Chair’s designee;

22 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
23 the House, of whom one shall be the Chair of the Maryland House Veterans Caucus, or the
24 Chair’s designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) one representative of a privately operated veteran-owned small
2 business enterprise, appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

3 (4) one representative of a privately operated minority-owned business,
4 appointed by the Secretary of General Services; and

5 (5) the following ex officio members:

6 (i) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;

7 (ii) the Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary's designee;

8 (iii) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;

9 and

10 (iv) one representative of the Governor's Office of Small, Minority,
11 and Women Business Affairs, appointed by the Governor.

12 (d) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly select
13 the chair of the Task Force.

14 (e) The Department of General Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

15 (f) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

19 (g) (1) The Task Force shall study and make specific recommendations
20 regarding:

21 (i) opportunities for veteran-owned small business enterprises to
22 participate in State procurement contracts; and

23 (ii) the improvement of the State's veteran-owned small business
24 enterprise program, including:

25 1. increasing veteran-owned small business enterprise
26 program participation rates;

27 2. integrating the veteran-owned small business enterprise
28 program with the minority business enterprise program and the small business reserve
29 program;

- 1 3. designating a lead agency to provide accountability for the
2 veteran-owned small business enterprise program;
- 3 4. increasing oversight across participating State agencies;
4 and
- 5 5. boosting the overall performance of the veteran-owned
6 small business enterprise program.

7 (2) The Task Force may establish subcommittees as necessary to fulfill its
8 duties under this subsection.

9 (h) On or before December 1, 2020, the Task Force shall report its findings and
10 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
11 Government Article, the General Assembly.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2021, this
14 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
15 further force and effect.