

SENATE BILL 896

C8

1lr2386

By: **Senator Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2021

Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup on the COVID–19 Crisis Economic Recovery**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup on the COVID–19 Crisis Economic
4 Recovery; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup;
5 prohibiting a member of the Workgroup from receiving certain compensation, but
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Workgroup to
7 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the
8 Workgroup to submit an interim and final report to the Governor and the General
9 Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and
10 generally relating to the COVID–19 economic crisis.

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

13 (a) There is a Workgroup on the COVID–19 Crisis Economic Recovery.

14 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

15 (1) five members of the Senate of Maryland, including members from the
16 Budget and Taxation Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Education, Health, and
17 Environmental Affairs Committee, appointed by the President of the Senate;

18 (2) five members of the House of Delegates, including members from the
19 Appropriations Committee, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Economic Matters
20 Committee, the Health and Government Operations Committee, and the Environment and
21 Transportation Committee, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

22 (3) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;

23 (4) the Secretary of Labor, 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 Transportation, or the Secretary's designee; and

2 (6) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
3 Secretary's designee.

4 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each appoint
5 one of their members as cochair of the Workgroup.

6 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

7 (e) The Workgroup:

8 (1) may retain the services of consultants; and

9 (2) shall be appropriated \$500,000 for that purpose.

10 (f) A member of the Workgroup:

11 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

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

14 (g) The Workgroup shall make recommendations regarding how the State may
15 best cope with the economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and in particular
16 the economic effect of the pandemic on:

17 (1) telehealth;

18 (2) telework;

19 (3) online education, from kindergarten to graduate programs;

20 (4) unemployment compensation;

21 (5) tax system modernization;

22 (6) changes in real estate such as office space, retail, residential, rental and
23 ownership, and community economic centers;

24 (7) rebuilding the public health system; and

25 (8) other impacts on public services.

26 (h) On or before December 31, 2021, the Workgroup shall submit an interim
27 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
28 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

1 (i) On or before December 31, 2022, the Workgroup shall submit a final report of
2 its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the
3 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2023,
6 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
7 of no further force and effect.