

CHAPTER 439

(House Bill 527)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study the Procurement of Health and Social Services by State Agencies

FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Procurement of Health and Social Services by State Agencies; providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for the designation of a chair of the Task Force; authorizing the Task Force to establish certain subcommittees; requiring the ~~Department of Budget and Management and the Department of General Services~~ Department of Legislative Services *departments represented on the Task Force* to provide staff for the Task Force; prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving compensation; authorizing a member to receive certain reimbursement; requiring the Task Force to report certain 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 a Task Force to Study the Procurement of Health and Social Services by State Agencies.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Procurement of Health and Social Services by State Agencies.

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

(1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the State Treasurer, or the Treasurer's designee;

(4) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;

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

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

(7) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

(8) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;

(9) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;

(10) the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs, or the Special Secretary's designee;

(11) the following two faculty members of universities or colleges in the State, jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House:

(i) one member who has special expertise in government administration; and

(ii) one member who has special expertise in business management; and

(12) three representatives of organizations currently contracting with the State to provide health or social services, appointed by the Governor.

(c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Task Force may establish subcommittees as it determines necessary to fulfill its duties.

(e) ~~The Department of Budget and Management and the Department of General Services Department of Legislative Services~~ departments represented on the Task Force shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(f) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

(g) The Task Force shall:

(1) evaluate and make recommendations regarding the methods used by State agencies to procure the delivery of health and social services;

(2) examine and make recommendations regarding State agencies' timeliness in preparing and issuing requests for proposals for the delivery of health and human services;

(3) examine and make recommendations regarding the timeliness of payments to contractors;

(4) examine and make recommendations regarding possible standardization of contracting processes among and within State agencies, including standardization of related documents and documentation required of contractors; and

(5) identify and make recommendations regarding any other issues, including current State laws or regulations affecting the efficiency and cost of procuring health and social services.

(h) In evaluating processes and formulating recommendations, the Task Force shall especially consider:

(1) the effect of procurement processes on quality and continuity of services;

(2) the costs and benefits of existing procurement procedures; and

(3) the effects of procurement requirements on the number and diversity of potential providers of services contracted by the State.

(i) The Task Force shall report its preliminary findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before November 30, 2008.

(j) The Task Force shall report its final findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before November 30, 2009.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2010, 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 13, 2008.