

Chapter 131

(House Bill 618)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms

FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms; providing for the membership, staffing, and duties of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to appoint the chair of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms.

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

- (1) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;
- (2) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's designee;
- (3) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;
- (4) the Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings, or the Judge's designee;
- (5) the Public Defender of Maryland, or the Public Defender's designee;
- (6) the Director of the Office of Forensic Services in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Director's designee; and
- (7) the following individuals, appointed by the Governor:

- (i) one representative of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police;
- (ii) one representative of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research;
- (iii) one representative of ~~the National Rifle Association~~ Maryland Shall Issue, Inc.;
- (iv) one representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland;
- (v) one representative of the Maryland Disability Law Center;
- ~~and~~
- (vi) one representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Maryland;
- (vii) one representative of Associated Gun Clubs of Baltimore, Inc.;
- (viii) one representative of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association;
- and
- (ix) one representative of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association;
- and
- (x) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) 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.

(f) The Task Force shall:

- (1) study the adequacy of State laws and policies relating to:

(i) the access of individuals with a history of mental illness to regulated firearms; and

(ii) the access of law enforcement officers to mental health records; ~~and~~

(2) consider whether existing law adequately protects the public, as well as the civil rights of individuals with mental illness, and make recommendations as appropriate; and

~~(2) (3) consider and make recommendations regarding legislative options for whether, and to what extent:~~

(i) ~~further limiting~~ there should be further limits on the access of individuals with a history of mental illness to regulated firearms; and

(ii) ~~expanding the~~ the State should expand access of law enforcement officers to certain mental health records.

(g) On or before December 31, 2012, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations, including recommendations regarding legislative options, 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 June 1, 2012. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2013, 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, April 10, 2012.