

HOUSE BILL 1645

O3, E4, R4

7lr3776

By: **Delegate Angel**

Introduced and read first time: March 6, 2017

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Mental Health Concerns for Deaf and Hard of Hearing**
3 **Individuals**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Mental Health Concerns for Deaf
5 and Hard of Hearing Individuals; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing
6 of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
7 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the
8 Task Force to study how mental health and other concerns impact interactions
9 between the deaf and hard of hearing and law enforcement officers; requiring the
10 Task Force to make recommendations regarding how to improve certain interactions
11 and the feasibility of designating, on certain Motor Vehicle Administration
12 documents, certain information about certain individuals; requiring the Task Force
13 to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
14 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and
15 generally relating to the Task Force to Study Mental Health Concerns for Deaf and
16 Hard of Hearing Individuals.

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

19 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Mental Health Concerns for Deaf and Hard of
20 Hearing Individuals.

21 (b) 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;

24 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
25 House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) the Director of the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, or the Director's designee;

(4) one representative of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, appointed by the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights;

(5) the Chair of the Maryland Advisory Council of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, or the Chair's designee;

(6) the Motor Vehicle Administration Administrator, or the Administrator's designee;

(7) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;

(8) the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, or the Executive Director's designee; and

(9) four representatives of the deaf and hard of hearing community, appointed by the Governor.

(c) To the extent practicable, the members of the Task Force shall reflect the racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the State.

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

(e) The Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing 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) study how mental health and other concerns impact interactions between the deaf and hard of hearing community and law enforcement officers; and

(2) make recommendations regarding:

(i) how to improve the interactions between the deaf and hard of hearing community and law enforcement officers; and

1 (ii) the feasibility of designating on Motor Vehicle Administration
2 records and documents, including license plates, that an individual is deaf or hard of
3 hearing.

4 (h) On or before December 1, 2017, the Task Force shall report its findings and
5 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
6 Government Article, the General Assembly.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
8 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
9 30, 2018, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
10 abrogated and of no further force and effect.