

HOUSE BILL 976

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By: **Delegates McKay, Parrott, and B. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2015

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Impact of Methadone Clinics on Surrounding**
3 **Communities and Businesses**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Impact of Methadone Clinics on
5 Surrounding Communities and Businesses; establishing the membership of the Task
6 Force; requiring the chair of the Task Force to be elected from among its members;
7 providing for staffing of the Task Force; providing that a member of the Task Force
8 may not receive certain compensation, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses;
9 establishing the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report its
10 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
11 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
12 to the Task Force to Study the Impact of Methadone Clinics on Surrounding
13 Communities and Businesses.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Impact of Methadone Clinics on
17 Surrounding Communities and Businesses.

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

19 (1) the Lieutenant Governor;

20 (2) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
21 designee;

22 (3) six health care professionals with experience in drug treatment, two of
23 whom shall be appointed by the Governor, two by the President of the Senate, and two by
24 the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) six members of the business community, two of whom shall be
2 appointed by the Governor, two by the President of the Senate, and two by the Speaker of
3 the House of Delegates; and

4 (5) six consumers, two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, two by
5 the President of the Senate, and two by the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

6 (c) The chair shall be elected from among the members of the Task Force.

7 (d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the Task
8 Force.

9 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

13 (f) The Task Force shall:

14 (1) study mechanisms in place in the State to provide surrounding
15 businesses and local communities with information on the location of methadone clinics in
16 the surrounding area;

17 (2) study mechanisms in place in the State for tracking and evaluating
18 complaints from local communities and businesses regarding the location of methadone
19 clinics;

20 (3) evaluate the impact of methadone clinics on surrounding businesses
21 and neighborhoods; and

22 (4) make recommendations on the possibility of prohibiting the location of
23 methadone clinics near churches, schools, and child care facilities.

24 (g) On or before December 1, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and
25 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1246 of the State Government Article,
26 the General Assembly.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
28 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of December 31,
29 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated
30 and of no further force and effect.