

# SENATE BILL 550

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By: **Senators Pugh, Kagan, Middleton, and Nathan-Pulliam**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2016

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Access to Dental Care in the State**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Access to Dental Care in the State;  
4 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a  
5 member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the  
6 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make  
7 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its  
8 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or  
9 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating  
10 to the Task Force to Study Access to Dental Care in the State.

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Access to Dental Care in the State.

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

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

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

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

21 (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) one representative of the State Board of Dental Examiners;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (ii) one representative of the Maryland State Dental Association;
- 2 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Dental Hygienists'  
3 Association;
- 4 (iv) one representative of the University of Maryland School of  
5 Dentistry; and
- 6 (v) three dental care providers from organizations that serve  
7 low-income populations.
- 8 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 9 (d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the Task  
10 Force.
- 11 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 12 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 13 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
14 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 15 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 16 (1) study:
- 17 (i) how to increase preventive dental care utilization and decrease  
18 unmet dental care need among Medicaid-eligible and Medicaid-ineligible children and  
19 adults in the State;
- 20 (ii) the cost of dental care, including the effect of the increase in  
21 Medicaid dental fees paid to providers and the increase in the Medicaid dental provider  
22 network in the State in 2009;
- 23 (iii) how to address barriers to dental care, including financial issues  
24 and the shortage of dentists and dental hygienists in the State; and
- 25 (iv) the effects of the Affordable Care Act on dental benefits coverage  
26 and cost barriers to dental care; and
- 27 (2) make recommendations regarding how to increase access to dental care  
28 among children and adults in the State.
- 29 (g) On or before December 30, 2016, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
30 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
31 Government Article, the General Assembly.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
2 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June  
3 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
4 abrogated and of no further force and effect.