

Chapter 212

(Senate Bill 696)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force on Long-Term Care Education and Planning

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Long-Term Care Education and Planning; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its 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 the Task Force on Long-Term Care Education and Planning.

Preamble

WHEREAS, Baby boomers represent 15% of the U.S. population and Maryland is home to 1.5 million baby boomers; and

WHEREAS, About one-quarter of the 1.5 million baby boomers in the State will require long-term care that will cost at least \$100,000 over the course of their lifetimes, with nearly two-thirds of this population having to pay for this care out of pocket; and

WHEREAS, A number of Maryland residents may not understand that they may not be able to rely on the State and federal government to pay for their long-term care needs; and

WHEREAS, Many Maryland residents may be under a misconception that the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and other State programs will sufficiently cover the cost of their long-term care; and

WHEREAS, Maryland residents are in need of education regarding the cost of and need for planning for long-term care; now, therefore,

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

- (a) There is a Task Force on Long-Term Care Education and Planning.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

~~(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;~~

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

~~(3)~~ (1) the Secretary of Aging, or the Secretary's designee;

~~(4)~~ (2) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's designee;

~~(5)~~ (3) the Maryland Insurance Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee; and

~~(6)~~ (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants;

(ii) one representative of the Maryland Bar Association;

(iii) one representative of the Financial Planning Association of Maryland;

(iv) one representative of the Maryland Association of Health Underwriters;

(v) one representative of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors of Maryland; ~~and~~

(vi) one representative of the Maryland Association of Private Colleges and Career Schools;

(vii) one representative of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland; and

(viii) one representative of a long-term care insurer or a trade association that includes long-term care insurers.

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

(d) ~~The Department of Aging shall~~ United Seniors of Maryland may 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) examine the status of long-term care education in the State;

(2) consider options for improving efforts to educate residents of the State about planning for long-term care; and

(3) make recommendations regarding long-term care education, including recommendations regarding education methods that will:

(i) ensure that no Maryland resident reaches the age of 50 without having received complete information about the risk of needing long-term care and the private options available to pay for long-term care; and

(ii) include information about the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, how the Program is funded, and whom the Program is intended to serve.

(g) On or before December 1, 2017, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations 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, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2018, 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 18, 2017.