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A BILL ENTITLED

Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances

1 AN ACT concerning

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3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances to study and make recommendations related to the use of natural 4 5 psychedelic substances; and generally relating to the Task Force on Responsible Use 6 of Natural Psychedelic Substances. 7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, 8 That: 9 In this section, "natural psychedelic substances" means naturally (a) (1) 10 derived psilocybin, psilocin, dimethyltryptamine, and mescaline. (2)11 "Natural psychedelic substances" does not include peyote. There is a Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances. 12 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members: 13 (c) 14 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland: 15 (i) one of which shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; 16 and 17 (ii) one of which shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the 18 Senate: 19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates: 20 (i) one of which shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and



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1 2	House;	(ii)	one of which shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the
3	(3)	the S	ecretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;
4	(4)	the S	ecretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;
5	(5)	the S	ecretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee;
6	(6)	the S	ecretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;
7	(7)	the S	ecretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;
8 9	(8) the Executive Dire		Executive Director of the Maryland Cannabis Administration, or designee; and
10	(9)	the fo	ollowing members, appointed by the Governor:
11 12	Johns Hopkins Un	(i) iversit	one representative of the University System of Maryland or the sy's Center for Psychedelic and Consciousness Research;
13 14	tribe in the State;	(ii)	one representative of a federally recognized Native American
15		(iii)	one individual with expertise in public health;
16		(iv)	one individual with expertise in behavioral health;
17 18	disorders;	(v)	one individual with expertise in the treatment of substance use
19		(vi)	one individual with expertise in the treatment of chronic pain;
20 21	psychotherapy;	(vii)	one individual with expertise in psychedelic-assisted
22		(viii)	one individual with expertise in psychedelic research;
23 24	communities;	(ix)	one individual with expertise in access to care in underserved
25 26	individuals with a	(x) substa	one individual with expertise in harm reduction strategies for ance use disorder;
27		(xi)	one individual with expertise in drug policy reform;
28		(xii)	one individual with expertise in the religious and spiritual use of

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1	psychedelic substances;
2 3	(xiii) one individual with expertise as a member of law enforcement; and
4 5	(xiv) two individuals who are patients with conditions that can be treated with psychedelic substances.
6 7	(d) To the extent practicable, the membership of the Task Force shall reflect the socioeconomic, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State.
8	(e) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
9	(f) The Maryland Department of Health shall provide staff for the Task Force.
0	(g) A member of the Task Force:
1	(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
12 13	(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
4	(h) The Task Force shall:
5	(1) study:
16 17	(i) existing laws, policies, and practices relating to the use of natural psychedelic substances;
18	(ii) the best available science and data on public benefits of responsible access to and use of natural psychedelic substances;
20 21	(iii) opportunities to maximize public benefits of responsible access to and use of natural psychedelic substances;
22 23	(iv) the best available data on potential risks of access to and use of natural psychedelic substances;
24 25	(v) opportunities to mitigate potential risks of access to and use of natural psychedelic substances; and
26 27 28	(vi) barriers health care practitioners and facilitators may encounter relating to natural psychedelic substances, including barriers relating to insurance, restrictions by licensing and credentialing entities, zoning, advertising, and financial

(2) make recommendations regarding any changes to State law, policy, and

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services;

- 1 practices needed to create a Maryland Natural Psychedelic Substance Access Program;
- 2 (3) make recommendations to establish requirements for a Natural 3 Psychedelic Permit, including:
- 4 (i) educational curricula to ensure the safe use of natural 5 psychedelic substances, including curricula relating to the testing of, proper dosage of, and 6 usage setting for such substances;
- 7 (ii) learning assessments to ensure knowledge, skills, and abilities 8 gained by Natural Psychedelic Permit applicants before the issuance of a permit;
- 9 (iii) existing infrastructure that may be used for the delivery of 10 educational and testing material;
- 11 (iv) existing organizations and groups willing and able to develop 12 educational curricula and learning assessments; and
- 13 (v) quantities of natural psychedelic substances that Natural Psychedelic Permit holders may possess, use, grow, and gift without supervision;
- 15 (4) make recommendations for therapeutic and licensed support for adult 16 use of natural psychedelic substances, allowing individuals the ability to obtain treatment 17 involving the use of psychedelic materials under the supervision and guidance of 18 experienced, trained, and licensed therapists and facilitators;
- 19 (5) make recommendations for establishing requirements related to the 20 production of natural psychedelic substances, including:
- 21 (i) regulations for growing natural psychedelic substances in 22 accordance with agricultural safety standards; and
- 23 (ii) testing and packaging requirements for products containing 24 natural psychedelic substances with clear and accurate labeling of potency;
- 25 (6) make recommendations for the sale and taxation of natural psychedelic substances, including:
- 27 (i) restricting the sales of natural psychedelic substances to Natural 28 Psychedelic Permit holders;
- 29 (ii) systems for the sale and reasonable taxation of natural 30 psychedelic substances to cover the cost of a Maryland Natural Psychedelic Substance 31 Access Program;
- 32 (iii) systems to support statewide online sales of natural psychedelic 33 substances with home delivery; and

options for retail stores that sell natural psychedelic substances 1 (iv) 2 in communities in the State and opt to participate in the online sale and home delivery of 3 the substances; and 4 make recommendations to transition from criminalizing conduct (7)5 involving natural psychedelic substances, including: 6 (i) punishing with civil penalties nonviolent infractions involving 7 the planting, cultivating, purchasing, transporting, distributing, or possessing of or other engagement with natural psychedelic substances: 8 9 expunging the records of Marylanders with convictions for (ii) nonviolent criminal offenses relating to natural psychedelic substances; and 10 11 (iii) releasing Marylanders incarcerated for nonviolent criminal 12 offenses relating to natural psychedelic substances. 13 On or before December 15, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a report of its 14 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly. 15 16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July

1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2026,

this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and

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of no further force and effect.