

# HOUSE BILL 1600

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By: **Delegates Patterson and Kittleman**

Introduced and read first time: February 14, 2020

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Establishment of Regional Centers for Women Veterans**

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

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Establishment of Regional Centers for  
15 Women Veterans.

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

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

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

21 (3) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;

22 (4) a representative from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,  
23 designated by the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(5) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) two members of the General Assembly, who together provide representation for:

1. the Veterans Caucus;
2. the Women's Caucus;
3. Prince George's County; and
4. Anne Arundel County;

(ii) two women residing in the State who are veterans of the United States armed forces;

(iii) one woman who is a Commissioner of the Maryland Veterans Commission; and

(iv) one representative from an existing veterans' center at, or affiliated with, an institution of higher learning.

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

(d) The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs shall 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) study the existing resources available to women veterans in the State, including centers for veterans and centers for women veterans;

(2) study the population count of women veterans in each county in the State;

(3) study the specific needs of women veterans, including trauma services for victims of sexual assault;

(4) study the characteristics and effectiveness of existing centers for women veterans in other jurisdictions; and

1           (5)     make recommendations regarding ways to address identified specific  
2 needs for services for women veterans residing in the State.

3           (g)     On or before October 1, 2021, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
4 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
5 Government Article, the General Assembly.

6           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 October 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end  
8 of October 31, 2021, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
9 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.