

(a) There is a Task Force to Study State Assistance to Veterans.

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

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

(5) the Adjutant General of the Military, or the Adjutant General's designee; and

(6) the following seven members, jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House:

(i) one member of the Maryland Congressional Delegation, or the member's designee;

(ii) one member of the Maryland Veterans Commission;

(iii) two veterans, one of whom is disabled and one of whom has separated from military service within the past 2 years;

(iv) one individual who is the surviving spouse or parent of a veteran;

(v) one individual with knowledge of providing health care services to veterans; and

(vi) a representative of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

(c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly designate the chairman of the Task Force.

(d) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall make all appointments on or before July 1, 2006.

(e) The members of the Task Force shall represent geographic, ethnic, and cultural differences throughout the State.

(f) The Task Force may request assistance and information from any government unit or other expert that the Task Force considers appropriate.

(g) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(h) A member of the Task Force: