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By: **Senators McCabe, Haines, Stoltzfus, and Colburn**  
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000  
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Development of a Statewide Drought Relief Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Development of a  
4 Statewide Drought Relief Plan; specifying the membership and duties of the  
5 Task Force; providing for the appointment of a chairman of the Task Force;  
6 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation;  
7 authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain  
8 expenses; providing for meetings of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to  
9 report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date;  
10 providing for staffing of the Task Force; providing for the termination of this Act;  
11 and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Development of a  
12 Statewide Drought Relief Plan.

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Development of a Statewide Drought  
16 Relief Plan.

17 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following 10 members:

18 (1) One member from the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
19 of the House;

20 (2) One member from the Senate, appointed by the President of the  
21 Senate;

22 (3) The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

23 (4) The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

24 (5) The Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;

25 (6) One member designated by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;

26 and

27 (7) The following four members appointed by the Governor:

- 1 (i) One representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;
- 2 (ii) One representative of the Maryland Municipal League;
- 3 (iii) One person representing professionals in the area of water  
4 conservation; and
- 5 (iv) One person representing academia with expertise in the area of  
6 water conservation.

7 (c) The Governor shall appoint a chairman of the Task Force.

8 (d) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on  
9 the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
10 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State Budget.

11 (e) The Task Force shall meet at least once per month at the call of the  
12 chairman.

13 (f) The Task Force shall:

14 (1) Develop a long range, drought emergency plan for the State;

15 (2) Conduct a series of public hearings statewide, at the call of the  
16 chairman, regarding the current and proposed procedures followed and restrictions  
17 imposed by the State in a drought emergency;

18 (3) Develop a procedure to be followed by the State in the event of a  
19 drought emergency to implement the provisions of the drought emergency plan;

20 (4) Develop a procedure for use when drought emergency restrictions are  
21 in place that would allow for waivers of the restrictions under specific circumstances;  
22 and

23 (5) Generally study the issues regarding drought emergencies within the  
24 State.

25 (g) The Task Force shall submit a final report to the Governor and the  
26 General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on or  
27 before March 1, 2001.

28 (h) The Department of Natural Resources shall coordinate with other State  
29 agencies to provide staffing for the Task Force.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 July 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,  
32 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
33 abrogated and of no further force and effect.