



## Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 433 of 2000 established the Task Force on Resource Based Industry in Maryland to examine the need for, and the feasibility of, establishing a financing development authority to assist Maryland's farming, fishing, forestry, and mineral extraction industries with loans, financing, training, and technical and business planning assistance services. The task force is required to consider the types of assistance that a financing development authority should implement, the amount in which a financing development authority should be funded, and whether the financing development authority should be an independent State government entity or be incorporated into an existing State government agency. The task force was required to report its recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2000. DLS, in consultation with DBED, must provide staff support for the task force.

**Background:** In its report to the Governor and the General Assembly, the task force concluded that, while significant progress had been made, the work of the task force should continue in order to further examine the feasibility of establishing a new program to assist Maryland's resource based industries. Specifically, the task force recommended that it should further examine the feasibility of establishing a new program within the MFCA and further examine the level of participation of DBED. The task force also recommended that, with the assistance of the MFCA, the University System of Maryland, local economic development officials, and representatives from the commercial fishing industry, it should conduct a comprehensive, interagency needs assessment in order to better understand the industries' needs, the expected level of demand, typical returns on investments, and reasonable eligibility criteria and benchmarks for evaluating performance. Further, the task force recommended that the Executive Director of the MFCA be included on the task force. This legislation is a direct result of those recommendations.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 165 (Delegates McClenahan and Glassman) – Economic Matters.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Business and Economic Development, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Food Center Authority, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – January 31, 2001  
jm/jr Revised – Senate Third Reader – March 20, 2001

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