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House action: Adopted  
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CHAPTER 535

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Economic Development of the Maryland Seafood**  
3 **Industry and Aquaculture Industries**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Economic Development of  
5 the Maryland Seafood ~~Industry and Aquaculture Industries~~; specifying the  
6 membership and duties of the Task Force, ~~certain workgroups, and a certain~~  
7 ~~executive committee; prohibiting a member from participating in certain Task~~  
8 ~~Force or workgroup functions under a certain circumstance; prohibiting a~~  
9 ~~member from receiving certain compensation, and authorizing the~~  
10 ~~reimbursement of certain expenses; providing for the staffing of the Task Force~~  
11 ~~and certain workgroups; requiring the Task Force to meet with a certain~~  
12 ~~frequency; prohibiting a member from participating in certain Task Force~~  
13 ~~activities under a certain circumstance; requiring the Task Force to issue a~~  
14 ~~certain~~ report to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly  
15 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and  
16 generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force to Study the Economic  
17 Development of the Maryland Seafood ~~Industry and Aquaculture Industries~~.

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
19 MARYLAND, That:

1 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Economic Development of the Maryland  
2 ~~Seafood Industry and Aquaculture Industries.~~

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

4 (1) ~~four members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of~~  
5 ~~the House;~~

6 (2) ~~four members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President~~  
7 ~~of the Senate;~~

8 (3) ~~the following members appointed by the Secretary of the Maryland~~  
9 ~~Department of Natural Resources or the Secretary's designee:~~

10 (i) ~~one representative from the State Department of Agriculture;~~

11 (ii) ~~one representative from the Department of Business and~~  
12 ~~Economic Development;~~

13 (iii) ~~one representative from the Department of the Environment;~~  
14 ~~and~~

15 (iv) ~~one representative from the Department of Natural Resources;~~

16 (4) ~~the following members appointed by the Governor:~~

17 (i) ~~one representative from an institution or institute in the~~  
18 ~~University System of Maryland;~~

19 (ii) ~~one representative from the retail seafood industry; and~~

20 (iii) ~~one member of the Maryland Watermen's Association.~~

21 (b) The Task Force shall consist of two workgroups:

22 (1) the seafood industry workgroup; and

23 (2) the aquaculture industry workgroup.

24 (c) (1) The seafood industry workgroup shall consist of the following 21  
25 members:

26 (i) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the  
27 Speaker of the House;

28 (ii) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the  
29 Senate;

30 (iii) the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee;

- 1                   (iv)     the Secretary of Business and Economic Development or the  
2 Secretary's designee;
- 3                   (v)     the Secretary of the Environment or the Secretary's designee;
- 4                   (vi)    the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Secretary's  
5 designee;
- 6                   (vii)   the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary's designee;
- 7                   (viii)  three representatives of the University System of Maryland,  
8 appointed by the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland or the Chancellor's  
9 designee as follows:
- 10                   1.     one representative of the College of Agriculture and  
11 Natural Resources;
- 12                   2.     one representative of the University of Maryland Eastern  
13 Shore; and
- 14                   3.     one representative of the Maryland Sea Grant College;
- 15                   (ix)    two representatives of the Maryland Watermen's Association;
- 16                   (x)    two representatives of the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries  
17 Association;
- 18                   (xi)    one representative of the Restaurant Association of Maryland;
- 19                   (xii)  one representative of the Food Dealers Council of the Maryland  
20 Retailers Association;
- 21                   (xiii) one representative of the Maryland Aquaculture Association;
- 22                   (xiv)  one representative of the seafood processing industry, appointed  
23 by the Secretary of Agriculture; and
- 24                   (xv)   one representative of the seafood value-added food  
25 manufacturing industry, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- 26                   (2)    The seafood industry workgroup shall:
- 27                   (i)     study and develop methods of expanding local and national  
28 markets for Maryland seafood;
- 29                   (ii)    explore whether existing seafood marketing techniques are  
30 being fully utilized by the industry and, if not, what is needed to increase the  
31 utilization of these techniques;
- 32                   (iii)  study and develop innovative seafood processing techniques;

- 1 (iv) review the methods other states have implemented to develop  
2 their seafood industries;
- 3 (v) consider and include as appropriate in its report the findings of  
4 any other task force or work group engaged in a study that impacts the economic  
5 development of the seafood industry; and
- 6 (vi) review and evaluate legislative and regulatory issues and  
7 permitting procedures to facilitate sustainable development of the industry.
- 8 (d) (1) The aquaculture industry workgroup shall consist of the following 19  
9 members:
- 10 (i) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the  
11 Speaker of the House;
- 12 (ii) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the  
13 Senate;
- 14 (iii) the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee;
- 15 (iv) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development or the  
16 Secretary's designee;
- 17 (v) the Secretary of the Environment or the Secretary's designee;
- 18 (vi) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Secretary's  
19 designee;
- 20 (vii) the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary's designee;
- 21 (viii) four representatives of the University System of Maryland,  
22 appointed by the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland or the Chancellor's  
23 designee as follows:
- 24 1. one representative of the University of Maryland  
25 Biotechnology Institute;
- 26 2. one representative of the College of Agriculture and  
27 Natural Resources;
- 28 3. one representative of the University of Maryland Center  
29 for Environmental Science; and
- 30 4. one representative of the Maryland Sea Grant College;
- 31 (ix) one representative of the Maryland Watermen's Association;
- 32 (x) two representatives of the Maryland Aquaculture Association;

1 (xi) one representative of the Food Dealers Council of the Maryland  
 2 Retailers Association;

3 (xii) one representative of the seafood processing industry, appointed  
 4 by the Secretary of Agriculture; and

5 (xiii) one representative of the seafood value-added food  
 6 manufacturing industry, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

7 (2) The aquaculture industry workgroup shall:

8 (i) assess the status, economic viability, and potential of the  
 9 Maryland aquaculture industry;

10 (ii) assess the economic, technical, and educational requirements  
 11 for enhancement of the Maryland aquaculture industry;

12 (iii) develop mechanisms to enhance coordination among agencies  
 13 and the University of Maryland to strengthen the aquaculture industry;

14 (iv) study and recommend innovative methods for aquaculture to  
 15 target commercial production and restoration of critical species;

16 (v) review methods undertaken in other states to develop their  
 17 aquaculture industries;

18 (vi) consider and include as appropriate in its report the findings of  
 19 any other task force or work group engaged in a study that impacts the economic  
 20 development of the aquaculture industry; and

21 (vii) review and evaluate legislative and regulatory issues and  
 22 permitting procedures to facilitate sustainable development of the industry.

23 (e) As the need arises, the Task Force or a workgroup may consult with:

24 (1) a representative of a federal agency;

25 (2) a private consultant;

26 (3) a member of the general public; or

27 (4) any other individual with expertise in the area of economic  
 28 development, the seafood industry, the aquaculture industry, or any other related  
 29 field.

30 (↔) (f) (1) (i) ~~The Governor~~ Except as prohibited under subparagraph (ii) of  
 31 this paragraph, the Secretary of Agriculture shall designate one of the members of the  
 32 Task Force as chairperson of the Task Force.

33 (ii) The Secretary of Agriculture may not serve as the chairperson  
 34 of the Task Force.

1                   (2)     The chairperson of the Task Force shall designate a chairperson for  
 2 each workgroup.

3           (g)     (1)     The executive committee of the Task Force shall consist of the  
 4 following 9 members of the Task Force:

5                   (i)     the chairperson of the Task Force;

6                   (ii)    the chairperson of each workgroup; and

7                   (iii)   three additional members of each workgroup, designated by the  
 8 chairperson of the respective members' workgroup.

9                   (2)     The chairperson of the Task Force and the executive committee shall:

10                   (i)     ensure the progress and coordination of the workgroups'  
 11 activities; and

12                   (ii)    as appropriate, integrate the findings of both workgroups in the  
 13 final report of the Task Force.

14           (4)     (h)     The Task Force and each workgroup shall determine the time and  
 15 place of its meetings.

16           (e)     ~~A member of the Task Force who misses two or more meetings of the Task~~  
 17 ~~Force may not participate in the decision making process, reports, or~~  
 18 ~~recommendations of the Task Force.~~

19           (i)     (1)     (i)     The Task Force shall meet as a whole at least once every 3  
 20 months.

21                   (ii)    At each meeting of the Task Force, each workgroup shall report  
 22 on its progress to date.

23                   (2)     (i)     Except as provided under subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, if  
 24 a member of the Task Force is absent from more than two meetings of:

25                                 1.     the Task Force, the member may not participate in the  
 26 decision-making process, report, or recommendations of the Task Force; or

27                                 2.     the member's workgroup, the member may not participate  
 28 in the decision-making process, report, or recommendations of the workgroup.

29                   (ii)    A member may not be considered absent from a meeting if:

30                                 1.     the chairperson of the Task Force or workgroup, as  
 31 applicable, has excused the member's absence in advance of the meeting; or

32                                 2.     another individual designated by the member represents  
 33 the member at the meeting.

1       ~~(f)~~     (j)       A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation, but is  
2 entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations,  
3 as provided in the State budget.

4       ~~(g)~~       The Task Force shall:

5               ~~(1)~~       study and develop methods of expanding the local and national  
6 market for Maryland seafood;

7               ~~(2)~~       explore whether existing seafood marketing techniques are being  
8 fully employed by the industry and, if not, what is needed to increase the use of these  
9 techniques;

10              ~~(3)~~       study and develop innovative methods of producing seafood, for  
11 example, aquaculture; and

12              ~~(4)~~       review the methods other states, including Alabama, Delaware,  
13 North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, and Virginia, have  
14 implemented to further develop their seafood industry.

15       ~~(h)~~     (k)       The State Department of Agriculture and the Department of  
16 Business and Economic Development shall provide staff for the Task Force and for  
17 each workgroup.

18       ~~(i)~~     (l)       On or before September 30, 2004 and in a format considered  
19 appropriate by the executive committee, the Task Force shall report ~~its~~ the findings  
20 and recommendations of each workgroup, including appropriate legislative or  
21 regulatory proposals, to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State  
22 Government Article, to the House Environmental Matters ~~Committee~~ and Economic  
23 Matters Committees and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
24 Committee.

25       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
26 ~~October~~ June 1, 2002. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 4 months  
27 and, at the end of September 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General  
28 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.