

SENATE BILL 765

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K2

2003 Regular Session  
(31r2672)

**ENROLLED BILL**  
-- Finance/Economic Matters --

Introduced by **Senator Middleton**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

CHAPTER 269

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing an Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force;  
4 providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for the  
5 appointment of a chairperson of the Task Force; providing for staffing of the  
6 Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain  
7 compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive  
8 reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report to the  
9 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for  
10 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of an  
11 Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force.

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

14 (a) There is an Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force to study  
15 taxation and charging for purposes of funding the Unemployment Insurance Trust  
16 Fund.

1 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following ~~10~~ 11 members:

2 (1) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

3 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
4 the House;

5 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation,  
6 or the Secretary's designee;

7 (4) the Secretary of the Department of Business and Economic  
8 Development, or the Secretary's designee;

9 (5) a representative of the Maryland Retailers Association, designated by  
10 the Maryland Retailers Association;

11 (6) ~~a member of the general public~~ representative of the Job  
12 Opportunities Task Force, designated by the Job Opportunities Task Force;

13 (7) a representative of ~~union labor, and employees~~ union labor,  
14 designated jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
15 Delegates by the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO;

16 (8) a representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, designated  
17 by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce; and

18 (9) a representative of the academic profession who is knowledgeable in  
19 unemployment insurance law, designated jointly by the President of the Senate and  
20 the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

21 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall  
22 ~~appoint the member of the general public, and shall jointly designate the chairperson~~  
23 ~~from among the members of the Task Force.~~ co-chairs from among the Senate and  
24 House members appointed to the Task Force.

25 (d) The Task Force shall examine:

26 (1) the fairness of the existing charging and taxation system under  
27 current Maryland Unemployment Insurance law, taking into consideration the  
28 impact on small, medium, and large employers across a variety of industries;

29 (2) the fairness of the existing eligibility and benefit provisions under  
30 current Maryland Unemployment Insurance law;

31 ~~(2)~~ (3) the need for altering the current system of charging and  
32 taxation in order to maintain the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund at a level  
33 sufficient to ensure that benefits will be paid from the Fund; and

34 ~~(3)~~ (4) the impact of changes in the national and State economies and  
35 their relationship to changes in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

1 (e) The Task Force shall make specific recommendations, including  
2 developing draft legislation, on what steps might be taken to ensure that payments  
3 into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund remain adequate and equitable for  
4 both employees and employers.

5 (f) The Department of Legislative Services, ~~with assistance from~~ in  
6 consultation with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, shall provide  
7 staffing for the Task Force.

8 (g) 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 (h) On or before December 1, 2003, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
12 recommendations ~~to the Governor and~~, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government  
13 Article, to the General Assembly.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 June 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of  
16 December 31, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
17 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.