
By: **Delegate Madaleno**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2004

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Democracy and Representative Government in Maryland for**
3 **the 21st Century**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Democracy and Representative
5 Government in Maryland for the 21st Century; requiring the Task Force to
6 study and evaluate the General Assembly's structure, organization, and process;
7 requiring the Task Force to make recommendations on changes to the State's
8 legislative structure, organization, and process that would achieve certain goals;
9 providing for the membership of the Task Force; providing staff for the Task
10 Force; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to
11 the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the
12 termination of the Task Force; and generally relating to the Task Force on
13 Democracy and Representative Government in Maryland for the 21st Century.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force on Democracy and Representative Government in
17 Maryland for the 21st Century.

18 (b) The Task Force shall study and evaluate the General Assembly's structure,
19 organization, and process and make recommendations for:

20 (1) changes to the redistricting process that provide for more efficient
21 and less political drawing of boundaries for State legislative districts and
22 congressional districts;

23 (2) changes to the legislative structure and process that enhance the
24 ability of the General Assembly to address the State's problems promptly and
25 decisively; and

26 (3) changes that would improve the public's perception of the General
27 Assembly as an important and accountable equal branch of State government with
28 the Executive Branch.

29 (c) The Task Force consists of the following 15 members:

- 1 (1) five members of the public, appointed by the Governor;
- 2 (2) five members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
3 of the Senate; and
- 4 (3) five members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
5 the House of Delegates.

6 (d) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates
7 jointly shall call the first meeting of the Task Force.

8 (e) The Task Force shall elect its chairman who shall call all future meetings
9 of the Task Force.

10 (f) The Department of Legislative Services, the School of Public Policy of the
11 University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and the School of Public Policy of the
12 University of Maryland, College Park, shall provide staff for the Task Force.

13 (g) A member of the Task Force:

14 (1) may not receive compensation; but

15 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
16 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

17 (h) The Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations
18 to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to
19 the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2005.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and, at
22 the end of December 31, 2005, with no further action required by the General
23 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.