

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1250 (Delegate Madaleno)  
Rules and Executive Nominations

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

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This bill establishes a 15-member task force to study and evaluate the General Assembly's structure, organization, and process. The School of Public Policy of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; the School of Public Policy of the University of Maryland at College Park; and the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) must provide staff support for the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by December 1, 2005.

The bill terminates on December 31, 2005.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The task force must study and make recommendations regarding: (1) changes to the redistricting process that provide for more efficient and less political drawing of boundaries for State legislative and congressional districts; (2) changes to legislative structure and process that enhance the ability of the General Assembly to

address the State's problems promptly and decisively; and (3) changes that would improve the public's perception of the General Assembly.

**Background:** The Colorado and Rhode Island legislatures have commissioned studies of its structure and operations in the past decade. The Colorado initiative was brought about from concern that term limits had created substantial turnover in the legislature which was affecting institutional memory, the education and experience levels of its membership, and the overall effectiveness of the legislature as a whole. The Rhode Island legislature was downsized by 37 members in 2003 after a blue ribbon commission recommendation.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The University System of Maryland advises that one additional faculty member and a graduate assistant would need to be hired for 15 months at a cost of \$154,000. DLS disagrees with this estimate and believes staffing requirements could be absorbed within existing resources.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 2004  
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