

HOUSE BILL 888

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8lr2781

By: **Delegates McDonough, Impallaria, Boteler, Bromwell, Burns, Frank, Jennings, Kach, Lafferty, Minnick, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Olszewski, Schuler, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Recreational Boating in Baltimore County**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Recreational Boating in
4 Baltimore County; providing for the composition of the Task Force; authorizing
5 the Task Force to choose the chair from among its members; providing for the
6 staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member from receiving certain
7 compensation; authorizing a member to receive certain reimbursement;
8 establishing the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report its
9 findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing
10 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a Task Force to Study
11 Recreational Boating in Baltimore County.

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, The marine and recreational boating industry is an important
14 economic engine in eastern Baltimore County; and

15 WHEREAS, The marine and recreational boating industry is now facing
16 overwhelming pressures to sustain itself; and

17 WHEREAS, In Baltimore County, the property values and tax burdens have
18 grown; and

19 WHEREAS, Given the property interests of the State and Baltimore County to
20 preserve the family arenas and restaurants that service the boating community; and

21 WHEREAS, Commercial waterfront property is now developed for
22 noncommercial residential uses; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The Maryland seafood industry heavily depends on access to
2 affordable and adequate facilities to harvest the bounty of the Bay; and

3 WHEREAS, The number of marinas in Baltimore County has been continuously
4 reduced; and

5 WHEREAS, The loss of marinas is causing a lack of mechanical and repair
6 service opportunities to boat owners; and

7 WHEREAS, The reduction in marinas and facilities providing gasoline is
8 impacting competition and creating higher prices; and

9 WHEREAS, There is a loss of facilities for boat storage that is causing more use
10 of neighborhood and residential locations; and

11 WHEREAS, Pleasure boating and lifestyles related to the leisure time activities
12 and tourist promotion are an important part of Baltimore County economic
13 development; now, therefore,

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Recreational Boating in Baltimore
17 County.

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

19 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland from Baltimore County,
20 appointed by the President of the Senate;

21 (2) four members of the House of Delegates from Baltimore County,
22 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

23 (3) two members of the Baltimore County Council;

24 (4) two members appointed by the Baltimore County Executive;

25 (5) five consumer members, appointed by the Governor;

26 (6) three members from the Marine Trades Association of Baltimore
27 County; and

28 (7) three members from industries related to pleasure boating.

29 (c) The members of the Task Force shall elect the chair from among the
30 members of the Task Force.

1 (d) The Department of Business and Economic Development shall provide
2 staff for the Task Force.

3 (e) A member of the Task Force:

4 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

7 (f) The Task Force shall:

8 (1) review Baltimore County regulations to assist the boating industry
9 with economic development; and

10 (2) make recommendations regarding changes in Baltimore County
11 regulations to assist the boating industry with economic development.

12 (g) On or before June 1, 2009, the Task Force shall report its findings and
13 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
14 Government Article, the General Assembly.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
17 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
18 abrogated and of no further force and effect.