

HOUSE BILL 114

C2, C8, C4

3lr1099

By: **Delegates Stukes, Braveboy, Conaway, DeBoy, Glenn, Mitchell,
B. Robinson, Walker, and M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2013

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Recovery Efforts Following Residential Fires**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Recovery Efforts Following
4 Residential Fires; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
6 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
7 requiring the Task Force to study and report on certain issues; requiring the
8 Task Force to make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the
9 Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
10 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of
11 this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Recovery Efforts
12 Following Residential Fires.

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Recovery Efforts Following Residential
16 Fires.

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

18 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
19 of the Senate;

20 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
21 the House;

22 (3) the Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, or
23 the Director's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) the State Fire Marshal, or the Fire Marshal's designee;

2 (5) the Chief Investigator of the Insurance Fraud Division in the
3 Maryland Insurance Administration, or the Chief Investigator's designee;

4 (6) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
5 Secretary's designee;

6 (7) the People's Insurance Counsel, or the Insurance Counsel's
7 designee;

8 (8) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the
9 Secretary's designee; and

10 (9) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

11 (i) one representative of the Independent Insurance Agents of
12 Maryland;

13 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Associated General
14 Contractors;

15 (iii) two members of the public who are homeowners, have
16 experienced a residential fire in their home, have homeowner's insurance, and have
17 used homeowner's insurance proceeds to rebuild their home;

18 (iv) one member of the public who is an attorney specializing in
19 insurance law;

20 (v) one representative of the Office of People's Counsel; and

21 (vi) one representative of the Better Business Bureau of Greater
22 Maryland.

23 (c) The Task Force shall elect a chair from among its members.

24 (d) The Maryland Insurance Administration shall provide staff for the Task
25 Force.

26 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

30 (f) The Task Force shall:

1 (1) study and report on the current process in Maryland for rebuilding
2 a home affected by fire;

3 (2) study the process by which:

4 (i) an insurance company recommends vendors and contractors
5 to a policy holder for restoration of a home damaged by fire;

6 (ii) an insurance company values a home damaged by fire as
7 well as the goods inside the home;

8 (iii) the Department of Housing and Community Development
9 decides whether a policy holder is eligible for relief housing; and

10 (iv) the Department of Housing and Community Development
11 recommends temporary housing options for a policy holder who has been affected by a
12 residential fire;

13 (3) consider whether existing State laws and policies provide adequate
14 assistance to Maryland residents who experience damage to their homes due to a
15 residential fire;

16 (4) review successful recovery models from other jurisdictions and
17 gather research relating to residential fire recovery methods;

18 (5) make recommendations on ways to improve:

19 (i) communication between insurance companies, the
20 Department of Housing and Community Development, contractors, and policy holders;

21 (ii) temporary housing options for policy holders affected by
22 residential fire; and

23 (iii) the time it takes to fully restore a home after a residential
24 fire; and

25 (6) make recommendations on any other relevant issues or
26 considerations identified by the Task Force.

27 (g) On or before October 1, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings and
28 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
29 Government Article, the General Assembly.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,

1 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.