

# HOUSE BILL 118

M3

4lr0762

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By: **Delegate Luedtke**

Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2014

Assigned to: Environmental Matters and Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2014

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Progress Report Ocean~~  
3 ~~Acidification~~

4 Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean Acidification on State Waters

5 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Department of the Environment to include an~~  
6 ~~analysis of the best available science regarding ocean acidification and certain~~  
7 ~~potential effects of acidification in a certain report; requiring the Department to~~  
8 ~~make recommendations on potential strategies to mitigate certain effects of~~  
9 ~~ocean acidification in a certain report; and generally relating to ocean~~  
10 ~~acidification~~ establishing the Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean  
11 Acidification on State Waters; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing  
12 of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving  
13 certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;  
14 requiring the Task Force to analyze certain information and make  
15 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report  
16 its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on  
17 or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally  
18 relating to the Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean Acidification on State  
19 Waters.

20 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~  
21 ~~Article Environment~~  
22 ~~Section 2-1200~~  
23 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 ~~(2013 Replacement Volume)~~

2 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
3 MARYLAND, ~~That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

4 ~~Article Environment~~

5 ~~2-1200.~~

6 (a) ~~On or before October 1, 2015, the Department shall submit a report to the~~  
7 ~~Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the~~  
8 ~~General Assembly that includes:~~

9 (1) ~~A summary of the State's progress toward achieving the 2020~~  
10 ~~emissions reduction required by the plan under § 2-1205 of this subtitle;~~

11 (2) ~~An update on emerging technologies to reduce greenhouse gas~~  
12 ~~emissions;~~

13 (3) ~~A review of the best available science, including updates by the~~  
14 ~~Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, regarding the level and pace of~~  
15 ~~greenhouse gas emissions reductions and sequestration needed to avoid dangerous~~  
16 ~~anthropogenic changes to the Earth's climate system;~~

17 (4) ~~Recommendations on the need for science based adjustments to~~  
18 ~~the requirement to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020;~~

19 (5) ~~A summary of additional or revised regulations, control programs,~~  
20 ~~or incentives that are necessary to achieve the 25% reduction in statewide greenhouse~~  
21 ~~gas emissions required under this subtitle, or a revised reduction recommended in~~  
22 ~~accordance with item (4) of this subsection;~~

23 (6) ~~The status of any federal program to reduce greenhouse gas~~  
24 ~~emissions and any transition by the State from its participation in the Regional~~  
25 ~~Greenhouse Gas Initiative to a comparable federal cap and trade program; [and]~~

26 (7) ~~An analysis of the overall economic costs and benefits to the State's~~  
27 ~~economy, environment, and public health of a continuation or modification of the~~  
28 ~~requirement to achieve a reduction of 25% in statewide greenhouse gas emissions by~~  
29 ~~2020, including reductions in other air pollutants, diversification of energy sources,~~  
30 ~~the impact on existing jobs, the creation of new jobs, and expansion of the State's low~~  
31 ~~carbon economy;~~

32 (8) ~~AN ANALYSIS OF THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE REGARDING~~  
33 ~~OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF ACIDIFICATION ON~~  
34 ~~THE ECOLOGY OF STATE WATERS AND ON STATE FISHERIES; AND~~

1                    ~~(9) RECOMMENDATIONS ON POTENTIAL STRATEGIES TO~~  
2 ~~MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF ACIDIFICATION ON STATE WATERS AND ON STATE~~  
3 ~~FISHERIES.~~

4                    ~~(b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to~~  
5 ~~a public comment and hearing process conducted by the Department. That:~~

6                    (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean Acidification on State  
7 Waters.

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

9                    (1) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

10                    (2) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee; and

11                    (3) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

12                    (i) one representative of the State's aquaculture industry;

13                    (ii) one representative of the Maryland Watermen's Association;

14                    (iii) one representative of the National Aquarium, Baltimore;

15                    (iv) one representative of the University of Maryland Center for  
16 Environmental Science; and

17                    (v) one representative of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

18                    (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

19                    (d) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff for the Task  
20 Force.

21                    (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

25                    (f) The Task Force shall:

26                    (1) analyze the best available science regarding ocean acidification  
27 and the potential effects of acidification on the ecology of State waters and on State  
28 fisheries; and

1                   (2) make recommendations regarding potential strategies to mitigate  
2 the effects of acidification on State waters and on State fisheries.

3                   (g) On or before January 1, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
4 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
5 Government Article, the General Assembly.

6                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 October 1, 2014 ~~October 1, 2014~~ July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the  
8 end of June 30, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
9 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.