

HOUSE BILL 1018

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By: Delegates **B. Robinson, Arora, Braveboy, Carter, Clippinger, Harper, Haynes, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Pena-Melnyk, Stukes, Summers, Tarrant, Vaughn, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2014

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Impact of Unemployment Insurance Contribution**
3 **Fluctuations on Small Businesses**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Impact of Unemployment
5 Insurance Contribution Fluctuations on Small Businesses; providing for the
6 composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the
7 Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
8 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to examine and
9 make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to
10 report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General
11 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;
12 and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Impact of Unemployment
13 Insurance Contribution Fluctuations on Small Businesses.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Impact of Unemployment Insurance
17 Contribution Fluctuations on Small Businesses.

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

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

21 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
22 of the House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the
2 Secretary's designee;

3 (4) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the
4 Secretary's designee; and

5 (5) the following four members, appointed by the Governor:

6 (i) one representative of the Governor's Office of Minority
7 Affairs;

8 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;
9 and

10 (iii) two owners of small businesses located in the State.

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

12 (d) The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation shall provide staff
13 for the Task Force.

14 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

18 (f) The Task Force shall:

19 (1) examine:

20 (i) the fairness of the existing contribution system under
21 current Maryland Unemployment Insurance law, taking into consideration the impact
22 on small, medium, and large employers across a variety of industries;

23 (ii) the factors influencing fluctuations in contributions small
24 business owners must make to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and the
25 impact of those fluctuations on small businesses;

26 (iii) the impact of government contracting on small business
27 owners and potential relief for small business owners from unemployment insurance
28 contribution increases following the termination of a government contract; and

29 (iv) the need to alter the current system of contributions in order
30 to ensure small businesses are not disparately impacted under the system; and

1 (2) make specific recommendations, including developing draft
2 legislation, on what steps might be taken to ensure that payments into the
3 Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund remain adequate and equitable for both
4 employees of small businesses and their employers.

5 (g) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings
6 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Senate Finance
7 Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246
8 of the State Government Article.

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