

SENATE BILL 625

Q7

4r1363
CF HB 554

By: **Senator Feldman**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2014

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness;
4 specifying the membership of the Commission; providing for the appointment of
5 a Senate cochair and House cochair of the Commission; providing for the
6 staffing of the Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from
7 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain
8 expenses; requiring the Commission to study, consider, and make
9 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Commission to
10 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
11 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;
12 and generally relating to the Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness.

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

15 (a) There is a Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness.

16 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
18 President of the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
20 of the House;

21 (3) the Comptroller of the Treasury, or the Comptroller's designee;

22 (4) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's
23 designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) a representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

2 (6) a representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;

3 (7) one economist, appointed by the Governor;

4 (8) one member of the faculty of the University of Maryland School of
5 Public Policy, appointed by the Governor;

6 (9) one member of the faculty of the University of Maryland Robert H.
7 Smith School of Business, appointed by the Governor; and

8 (10) two members of the public, each of whom shall be an attorney at
9 law or an accountant knowledgeable about the State's tax structure, appointed by the
10 Governor.

11 (c) (1) The President of the Senate shall designate one of the members
12 appointed from the Senate of Maryland as cochair of the Commission.

13 (2) The Speaker of the House shall designate one of the members
14 appointed from the House of Delegates as cochair of the Commission.

15 (d) The Office of the Comptroller and the Department of Budget and
16 Management shall provide staff for the Commission.

17 (e) A member of the Commission:

18 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

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

21 (f) The Commission shall:

22 (1) study the current revenue structure of the State, including income,
23 sales, corporate, motor fuel, excise, and property taxes, tax exemptions and credits,
24 and fees;

25 (2) review the academic and economic research on state and local tax
26 policy to assist in the overall assessment of efficacy, fairness, and competitiveness of
27 the current revenue structure of the State;

28 (3) review the revenue structure of neighboring jurisdictions for the
29 purpose of evaluating the regional competitiveness of the State's tax structure;

30 (4) consider the nature of the State's economy and the importance of
31 service and professional businesses to economic development;

1 (5) consider whether or not the current revenue structure of the State
2 should be reformed, modified, and modernized; and

3 (6) make recommendations regarding changes to the State's revenue
4 structure that:

5 (i) promote job growth and economic development;

6 (ii) ensure fairness, simplicity, and transparency;

7 (iii) provide a stable, balanced, and reliable revenue stream,
8 while not reducing services; and

9 (iv) create a business friendly environment.

10 (g) On or before December 1, 2015, the Commission shall report its findings
11 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
12 Government Article, the General Assembly.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June
15 30, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
16 abrogated and of no further force and effect.