

SENATE BILL 888

A1

5lr3036

By: **Senator Conway**

Introduced and read first time: March 2, 2015

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Issuance of Beer and Wine Licenses to Chain Stores**

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

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

13 That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Issuance of Beer and Wine Licenses to
15 Chain Stores.

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

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

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

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

22 (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) four representatives of chain stores, recommended by the
2 Maryland Retailers Association;

3 (ii) two representatives of alcoholic beverage dealers, recommended
4 by the Maryland State Licensed Beverage Association;

5 (iii) one representative of beer wholesalers, recommended by the
6 Maryland Beer Wholesalers Association;

7 (iv) two representatives of liquor wholesalers;

8 (v) two representatives of convenience stores, recommended by the
9 Maryland Retailers Association and the Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Dealers Association; and

10 (vi) four consumers.

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

12 (d) The Comptroller's Office shall provide staff for the Task Force.

13 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

17 (f) The Task Force shall:

18 (1) study:

19 (i) the costs, benefits, and feasibility of issuing beer and wine
20 licenses to chain stores;

21 (ii) how other states have implemented similar legislation; and

22 (iii) any other issues that the Task Force considers relevant to the
23 policy issue in this State; and

24 (2) make recommendations regarding the issuance of beer and wine
25 licenses to chain stores.

26 (g) On or before December 31, 2016, the Task Force shall report its findings and
27 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
28 Government Article, the General Assembly.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
2 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June
3 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
4 abrogated and of no further force and effect.