

HOUSE BILL 701

Q3

6lr2795

By: **Delegate Walker**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Warrant Intercept Program for Maryland Income Tax**
3 **Refunds**

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

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Warrant Intercept Program for Maryland
16 Income Tax Refunds.

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

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

20 (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the Minority
21 Leader of the Senate;

22 (3) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
23 House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (4) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Minority
2 Leader of the House;
- 3 (5) the Comptroller of the Treasury, or the Comptroller's designee;
- 4 (6) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee; and
- 5 (7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 6 (i) one representative of the National Association for the
7 Advancement of Colored People;
- 8 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association; and
- 9 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association.
- 10 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 11 (d) The Office of the Comptroller shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- 12 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 13 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 14 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
15 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 16 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 17 (1) study:
- 18 (i) the total number of tax refunds withheld by the Comptroller
19 under Title 13, Subtitle 9, Part VII of the Tax – General Article;
- 20 (ii) the average amount of the tax refunds withheld by the
21 Comptroller;
- 22 (iii) potential differences in the service of warrants or requests by
23 warrant officials to the Comptroller to withhold tax refunds under the program based on
24 race;
- 25 (iv) the types of warrants that prompted the requests by warrant
26 officials to the Comptroller to withhold refunds, including warrants related to criminal
27 violations, civil matters, motor vehicle violations, and failures to appear; and
- 28 (v) the effectiveness of withholding refunds on resolving outstanding
29 warrants in each jurisdiction of the State; and

1 (2) make recommendations regarding continued implementation of the
2 program in a manner that ensures that the program does not disparately impact
3 individuals on racial grounds.

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

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
8 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
9 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
10 abrogated and of no further force and effect.