

# HOUSE BILL 743

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HB 603/15 – ENV

6lr2596

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By: **Delegates S. Robinson and Cassilly**  
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016  
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 17, 2016

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and  
4 Infrastructure Task Force; providing for the composition, cochairs, and staffing of  
5 the 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 identify, evaluate, study, and make recommendations regarding  
8 certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its interim and final findings and  
9 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain  
10 dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Yard  
11 Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Task Force.

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

13 That:

14 (a) There is a Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Task  
15 Force.

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

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

19 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
20 House;

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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.



## HOUSE BILL 743

- 1 (3) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;
- 2 (4) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;
- 3 (5) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;
- 4 (6) the Director of the Maryland Environmental Service, or the Director's  
5 designee;
- 6 (7) one representative of the MD-DC Compost Council;
- 7 (8) one representative of the American Biogas Council;
- 8 (9) one representative of the Restaurant Association of Maryland;
- 9 (10) one representative of the Maryland Retailers Association;
- 10 (11) one representative of the Maryland Food Bank;
- 11 (12) one representative of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance;
- 12 (13) one representative of the Maryland Recycling Network; ~~and~~
- 13 (14) one representative of the Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association;
- 14 (15) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;
- 15 (16) one representative of the Maryland Municipal League; and
- 16 ~~(14)~~ (17) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 17 (i) ~~one representative of a local public works department;~~
- 18 ~~(ii)~~ (ii) one representative of a privately owned commercial composting  
19 facility;
- 20 ~~(iii)~~ (ii) one representative of an agricultural industry that accepts  
21 food waste for composting, anaerobic digestion, or animal feed purposes;
- 22 ~~(iv)~~ (iii) one representative of a developer of an anaerobic digestion  
23 project;
- 24 ~~(v)~~ (iv) one representative of a hauler that offers collection of  
25 source-separated food waste;

1                   ~~(vii)~~ (v)           one representative of a large food waste processor in the  
2 State; and

3                   ~~(viii)~~ (vi)           one representative of a supermarket chain store.

4           (c)     The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee, and the  
5 Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee, shall be the cochairs of the Task Force.

6           (d)     The Department of the Environment and the Department of Economic  
7 Competitiveness and Commerce jointly shall provide staff for the Task Force.

8           (e)     A member of the Task Force:

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

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

12           (f)     The Task Force shall:

13                   (1)     identify means to promote investment in infrastructure to expand  
14 capacity in the State to divert food waste from refuse disposal facilities;

15                   (2)     evaluate the current recovery of food waste in the State, opportunities  
16 for expansion, and how to overcome obstacles to expansion;

17                   (3)     identify organic waste recycling facilities and the capacity available in  
18 the State;

19                   (4)     identify properties or development zones where infrastructure may be  
20 developed;

21                   (5)     identify any tax or other incentives that already exist to encourage  
22 infrastructure development;

23                   (6)     identify persons that generate approximately 1 ton or more of food  
24 waste per week by name and location, the locations where those persons are concentrated,  
25 and the estimated total tonnage of food waste from those persons that is expected to be  
26 diverted from disposal if adequate capacity exists;

27                   (7)     study yard waste disposal bans in place in other states;

28                   (8)     study food waste recovery requirements in place in other states;

29                   (9)     identify other states that have permitting regulations for anaerobic  
30 digestion facilities and evaluate those regulations for adoption in Maryland;

1 (10) evaluate whether county solid waste management plans should:

2 (i) require an organic materials recycling program; and

3 (ii) address facility infrastructure needs for organic materials  
4 recycling;

5 (11) study ways to encourage a decentralized and distributed composting  
6 infrastructure;

7 (12) review the recommendations in the final report of the Composting  
8 Workgroup convened by the Department of the Environment;

9 (13) review the Department of the Environment's Zero Waste Plan's goals  
10 to increase the diversion of organic materials;

11 (14) identify ways that the diversion of food waste can help the State reach  
12 the recycling and waste diversion goals in the Zero Waste Plan;

13 (15) study how food waste diversion can help the State meet phosphorus  
14 management goals; and

15 (16) recommend specific legislative and other policy initiatives to implement  
16 the recommendations in the Composting Workgroup's final report and the goals and  
17 objectives of the Zero Waste Plan, including measures to:

18 (i) strengthen the existing yard waste disposal ban; and

19 (ii) institute new requirements for food waste reduction and  
20 recycling.

21 (g) (1) On or before January 1, 2017, the Task Force shall report its interim  
22 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the  
23 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

24 (2) On or before January 1, 2018, the Task Force shall report its final  
25 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the  
26 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
28 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2018,  
29 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and  
30 of no further force and effect.