

HOUSE BILL 659

Q1

(7lr3177)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Ways and Means/Budget and Taxation* —

Introduced by **Delegates Angel, Carr, Davis, Hill, Jackson, Oaks, Tarlau, A. Washington, M. Washington, and Wilkins**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Tax Sales in Maryland**

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

11 Preamble

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.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 WHEREAS, The Maryland tax sale system has not been overhauled in many years;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Local jurisdictions in the State are struggling with vacant and
4 abandoned properties due to tax sales; and

5 WHEREAS, People are losing their homes for unpaid taxes and water bills; and

6 WHEREAS, It is the will of the General Assembly to examine the tax sale system to
7 maximize resources, facilitate properties getting to productive use, and protecting
8 residents; now, therefore,

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
10 That:

11 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Tax Sales in Maryland.

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

13 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
14 the Senate;

15 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
16 the House;

17 (3) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
18 Secretary's designee;

19 (4) one member from Baltimore City, appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore
20 City;

21 (5) one member from Dorchester County, appointed by the Dorchester
22 County Manager;

23 (6) one member from Prince George's County, appointed by the Prince
24 George's County Executive;

25 (7) one member appointed by the Maryland Association of Counties;

26 (8) one member appointed by the Maryland Municipal League;

27 (9) one member appointed by the Center for Community Progress; ~~and~~

28 (10) two members appointed by the Community Development Network of
29 Maryland;

30 (11) one member appointed by the Maryland Multi-Housing Association;

1 (12) one member appointed by the Maryland State Bar Association;

2 (13) one member appointed by the National Tax Lien Association; ~~and~~

3 (14) one member appointed by the Maryland Association of Municipal Water
4 Agencies; and

5 (15) one member appointed by the Maryland Tax Sale Participants
6 Association.

7 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall designate the
8 chair of the Task Force.

9 (d) The Task Force may establish subcommittees it determines are necessary to
10 carry out its duties.

11 (e) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall provide staff
12 for the Task Force.

13 (f) 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 (g) The Task Force shall:

18 (1) evaluate and assess the impact of tax sales in Maryland;

19 (2) evaluate how tax sales are conducted in each county; ~~and~~

20 (3) evaluate tax sales to collect delinquent water charges and alternative
21 methods of collecting delinquent water charges; and

22 ~~(3)~~ (4) examine and make recommendations for reform of the tax sale process
23 in Maryland.

24 (h) On or before December 1, 2017, the Task Force shall report its findings and
25 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
26 Government Article, the General Assembly.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
28 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
29 30, 2018, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
30 abrogated and of no further force and effect.