

# HOUSE BILL 185

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CF 0lr1598

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By: **Delegates Dumais, Qi, and Fraser-Hidalgo**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2020

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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

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

16 That:

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

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

19 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
20 the Senate;

21 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
22 the House;

23 (3) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;

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

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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) a representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

4 (8) a representative of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation,  
5 designated by the Director of Assessments and Taxation;

6 (9) a representative of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce;

7 (10) a representative of the Greater Baltimore Committee;

8 (11) one economist, appointed by the Governor;

9 (12) one member of the faculty of the University of Maryland School of  
10 Public Policy, appointed by the Governor;

11 (13) one member of the faculty of the University of Maryland Robert H.  
12 Smith School of Business, appointed by the Governor; and

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

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

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

19 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the  
20 Commission.

21 (e) A member of the Commission:

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

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

25 (f) The Commission shall:

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

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

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

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

8           (5)     consider whether the current revenue structure of the State should be  
9 reformed, modified, and modernized; and

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

12                   (i)     promote job growth and economic development;

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

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

16                   (iv)   create a business-friendly environment.

17          (g)     On or before December 1, 2020, the Commission shall report its preliminary  
18 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the  
19 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

20          (h)     On or before December 1, 2021, the Commission shall report its findings and  
21 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
22 Government Article, the General Assembly.

23          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
24 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June  
25 30, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be  
26 abrogated and of no further force and effect.