
By: Delegates Elliott and Stull

Introduced and read first time: February 14, 1996

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 19, 1996

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Maryland's Dairy Industry - Extension**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the termination and abrogation date of the Task Force on
4 Maryland's Dairy Industry from the end of December 31, 1996 to the end of June
5 30, 1997; requiring the Task Force to review certain laws and regulations concerning
6 milk products; extending the reporting date of the Task Force; and generally
7 relating to the Task Force on Maryland's Dairy Industry.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
10 Section 18-307
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)
13 (As enacted by Chapter 120 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Chapter 274 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995
16 Section 2

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

20 18-307.

21 (a) There is a Task Force on Maryland's Dairy Industry in the Department of
22 Agriculture.

2

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

2 (1) 2 delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

3 (2) 2 Senators appointed by the President of the Senate of Maryland;

4 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;

5 (4) The Secretary of Business and Economic Development or the
6 Secretary's designee;

7 (5) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
8 designee;

9 (6) The Dean of Agriculture of the University of Maryland at College Park,
10 or the Dean's designee; and

11 (7) 9 members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

12 (i) 1 representative of the Maryland Farm Bureau;

13 (ii) 1 representative of the Maryland State Grange;

14 (iii) 1 Maryland dairy producer;

15 (iv) 2 Maryland dairy processors;

16 (v) 2 Maryland retailers of dairy products; and

17 (vi) 2 members at large.

18 (c) Staff support for the Task Force shall be provided by the State Department of
19 Agriculture with the assistance of the Office of Planning and other appropriate units.

20 (d) The purposes and responsibilities of the Task Force are to:

21 (1) Assess:

22 (i) The current state of dairy farming in Maryland;

23 (ii) Trends in production, processing, marketing, and landuse that
24 affect dairy farming and the dairy industry in Maryland; and

25 (iii) The long-term viability of Maryland dairy farming, allied
26 industries and services;

27 (2) Study the issues raised relating to the state of, trends in, and viability of
28 the Maryland dairy industry, and options for addressing these issues, both in a
29 comprehensive manner and in specific strategies;

30 (3) Develop recommendations for methods to maintain and improve
31 Maryland's dairy industry, preserve farmland, and promote the use and consumption of
32 Maryland milk and dairy products;

3

1 (4) In the course of its assessment, study, and development of
2 recommendations, conduct meetings in different parts of the State, and encourage
3 participation from all sectors of the State;

4 (5) Propose legislative, regulatory, and other changes required to implement
5 the recommendations; ~~and~~

6 (6) Monitor the implementation of the recommendations until the Task
7 Force terminates; AND

8 (7) REVIEW THE STATE LAW AND REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH THE
9 MAXIMUM LENGTH OF TIME GRADE A MILK PRODUCTS MAY BE KEPT FOR SALE,
10 ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE STATE LAW AND REGULATIONS ON MARYLAND'S DAIRY
11 INDUSTRY, AND CONSIDER REPLACING THE SELL-BY PERIOD WITH A
12 BEST-IF-USED-BY-PERIOD.

13 (e) On or before January 1, ~~1996~~ 1997, the Task Force shall report its
14 recommendations to the Governor, to the House Environmental Matters Committee, and
15 to the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

16 (f) This section shall terminate and be of no effect after [December 31, 1996]
17 JUNE 30, 1997.

18 **Chapter 274 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995**

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 July 1, 1995. It shall remain effective [for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at] UNTIL
21 the end of [December 31, 1996] JUNE 30, 1997 AND, with no further action required by
22 the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 July 1, 1996.