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**By: Delegates Stup and Nathan-Pulliam**

Requested: September 6, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Future of Maryland Agriculture**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the Future of Maryland Agriculture;  
4 establishing the membership, duties, purposes, and staffing of the Task Force;  
5 requiring units of State and local government to cooperate with the Task Force;  
6 requiring the Task Force to report certain recommendations to certain persons by a  
7 certain date; providing for the effective date and termination of this Act; and  
8 generally relating to the Task Force on the Future of Maryland Agriculture.

9 BY adding to

10 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
11 Section 18-313  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

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

17 18-313.

18 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURE.

19 (B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING 19 MEMBERS:

20 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE  
21 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

22 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE  
23 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

24 (3) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE OR THE SECRETARY'S  
25 DESIGNEE;

26 (4) THE SECRETARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR  
27 THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

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1 (5) THE SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OR THE SECRETARY'S  
2 DESIGNEE;

3 (6) THE DEAN OF AGRICULTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
4 AT COLLEGE PARK OR THE DEAN'S DESIGNEE;

5 (7) THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING OR THE DIRECTOR'S  
6 DESIGNEE; AND

7 (8) TEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, AS FOLLOWS:

8 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF MARYLAND SOIL CONSERVATION  
9 DISTRICTS;

10 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND FARM BUREAU;

11 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND GRANGE;

12 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL  
13 LEAGUE;

14 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF  
15 COUNTIES;

16 (VI) TWO ATTORNEYS INTERESTED AND EXPERIENCED IN  
17 AGRICULTURAL ESTATE AND TAX PLANNING;

18 (VII) ONE ATTORNEY INTERESTED AND EXPERIENCED IN LAND  
19 USE, ZONING, AND PLANNING;

20 (VIII) ONE FINANCIAL PLANNER OR OTHER QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL  
21 INTERESTED AND EXPERIENCED IN AGRICULTURAL FINANCIAL PLANNING; AND

22 (IX) ONE CONSUMER MEMBER.

23 (C) TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
24 TASK FORCE SHALL BE APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF  
25 THE STATE AND THE DIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATE.

26 (D) THE GOVERNOR SHALL SELECT A CHAIRMAN FROM THE MEMBERS OF  
27 THE TASK FORCE.

28 (E) (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL HAVE ITS FIRST MEETING NO LATER THAN  
29 JUNE 30, 1997 AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIRMAN.

30 (2) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST MONTHLY.

31 (3) THE TASK FORCE MAY ESTABLISH SUBCOMMITTEES FROM THE  
32 MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE TO ACCOMPLISH THE DUTIES IMPOSED BY THIS  
33 SECTION.

34 (4) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE:

35 (I) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION; BUT

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1 (II) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE  
2 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

3 (5) A MEMBER MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE TASK FORCE FOR  
4 FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE TASK FORCE.

5 (6) IN THE COURSE OF ITS EXAMINATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
6 RECOMMENDATIONS, THE TASK FORCE MAY HOLD MEETINGS IN DIFFERENT PARTS  
7 OF THE STATE, AND MAY ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE  
8 STATE.

9 (7) ALL COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS AND STATE  
10 AGENCIES SHALL COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE TASK FORCE.

11 (F) (1) THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE IS TO EXAMINE ISSUES  
12 RELATING TO THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE AS A VIABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
13 COMPONENT OF MARYLAND, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON LAND USE AND  
14 TAXATION POLICIES, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THESE ISSUES TO THE  
15 GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

16 (2) IN PARTICULAR, THE TASK FORCE SHALL EXAMINE AND  
17 RECOMMEND MEANS TO:

18 (I) ENHANCE "RIGHT TO FARM" LEGISLATION AT THE STATE AND  
19 LOCAL LEVELS;

20 (II) REDUCE INCONSISTENCIES IN "PERMITTED USES"  
21 THROUGHOUT THE STATE;

22 (III) CREATE A STATEWIDE SYSTEM FOR TRANSFER OF  
23 DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS;

24 (IV) ASSIST FARMERS IN ESTATE PLANNING AND BUSINESS  
25 MANAGEMENT;

26 (V) LINK YOUNG FARMERS WITH RETIRING FARMERS;

27 (VI) STREAMLINE TAX AND OTHER PROVISIONS FOR THE  
28 TRANSFER OF FARMLAND THAT WILL REMAIN IN ACTIVE AGRICULTURAL USE;

29 (VII) ELIMINATE OVERLAP AND CONFLICT BETWEEN STATUTES  
30 AND REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND THE  
31 ENVIRONMENT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LAND USES; AND

32 (VIII) STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR  
33 RESIDENTIAL LOTS SERVED BY WELL AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS.

34 (G) THE OFFICE OF PLANNING SHALL PROVIDE PRIMARY STAFF SUPPORT TO  
35 THE TASK FORCE.

36 (H) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 1997, THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT ITS  
37 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR, AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1312 OF THE STATE  
38 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE SENATE ECONOMIC AND

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1 ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL  
2 MATTERS COMMITTEE.

3           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 June 1, 1997. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end  
5 of June 30, 1998, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall  
6 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.