
By: Delegates Brinkley, Stull, Elliott, Poole, Snodgrass, Hecht, Jacobs, Harkins, Preis, Stup, Donoghue, Fry, McIntosh, Rosenberg, Ports, Curran, Holt, DeCarlo, and Rosapepe

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Maryland Wine Industry**

3 FOR the purpose of creating a Task Force on the Maryland Wine Industry; specifying the
4 composition of the Task Force; specifying the duties of the Task Force; requiring
5 the Department of Business and Economic Development to provide staff support
6 for the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and General
7 Assembly on or before a certain date; terminating the Task Force on a certain date;
8 and generally relating to the Maryland wine industry.

9 Preamble

10 WHEREAS, The Maryland wine industry historically has been a significant part
11 of the State's agricultural economy; and

12 WHEREAS, The Maryland wine industry attracts regional and national attention
13 to Maryland through the production of award-winning wines; and

14 WHEREAS, The process of wine making requires large investments of capital
15 and commitments of financial resources to ensure quality wines; and

16 WHEREAS, Vineyards promote the State's goals of providing open spaces and
17 green spaces; and

18 WHEREAS, The soil conditions and climate found in Maryland are beneficial for
19 the production of world class wines; and

20 WHEREAS, The State can improve its ability to attract new vineyards and
21 wineries by establishing programs to assist in the attraction and retention of wineries; and

22 WHEREAS, Wineries are tourist attractions bringing out-of-State residents into
23 Maryland and generating economic tourist activity; now, therefore,

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
25 MARYLAND, That:

26 (a) There is a Task Force on the Maryland Wine Industry.

27 (b) The Task Force shall:

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1 (1) study the impact of the wine industry on the State and the feasibility and
2 desirability of enacting legislation to improve the economic, market, and legislative
3 environments for Maryland's wine industry;

4 (2) analyze the impact of the Maryland wine industry on the State's
5 economy, agricultural industry, tourism industry, and efforts to promote open and green
6 spaces and prevent suburban sprawl;

7 (3) compare efforts in other states to promote wine growing in those states;
8 and

9 (4) develop recommendations to promote the health and growth of the
10 Maryland wine industry by establishing programs within the Department of Business and
11 Economic Development, Department of Agriculture, and other relevant agencies.

12 (c) The Task Force consists of:

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

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

16 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, or the Secretary's
17 designee; and

18 (4) the following members appointed by the Governor:

19 (i) two representatives of the Department of Business and Economic
20 Development with experience in financing programs and the tourism industry;

21 (ii) one representative from the Association of Maryland Wineries;

22 (iii) one representative from the Maryland Tourism Council;

23 (iv) one representative of the Maryland Wine and Grape Advisory
24 Board;

25 (v) one representative of the Maryland Grape Growers Association;
26 and

27 (vi) one representative from the public with demonstrated experience
28 in agriculture, wine making, or tourism.

29 (d) The Task Force shall be staffed by the Department of Business and Economic
30 Development.

31 (e) The Task Force shall report to the Governor, and, in accordance with §
32 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before December
33 31, 1997.

34 (f) The Task Force shall terminate on December 31, 1997.

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
36 June 1, 1997.