

HOUSE BILL 832
EMERGENCY BILL

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1999 Regular Session
9lr0531

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County - Election Law - Task Force to Review the Prince**
3 **George's County Board of Elections**
4 **PG 423-99**

5 FOR the purpose of creating a Task Force to Review the Prince George's County
6 Board of Elections; specifying the composition, powers, and duties of the Task
7 Force; providing for the staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to
8 report its findings and recommendations by a certain date; providing for the
9 termination of this Act; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally
10 relating to the establishment of a Task Force to Review the Prince George's
11 County Board of Elections.

12 BY adding to
13 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
14 Section 18-306
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the citizens of Prince George's County
19 to establish and preserve high standards in elections; and

20 WHEREAS, Voting systems are constantly being improved with the advent
21 and implementation of new technology; and

22 WHEREAS, The citizens of Prince George's County strongly desire to
23 undertake a thorough assessment of the organization and operations of elections in
24 the County in order to establish and preserve high standards for their elections; now,
25 therefore,

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

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments

2 18-306.

3 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
4 BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

5 (B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING 17 MEMBERS:

6 (1) THREE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY
7 THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION;

8 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE
9 CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SENATE DELEGATION;

10 (3) TWO MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S
11 COUNTY, APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL;

12 (4) TWO MEMBERS OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF
13 ELECTIONS, APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD;

14 (5) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OR THE
15 COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S DESIGNEE;

16 (6) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS,
17 APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE BOARD; AND

18 (7) SIX CITIZENS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF AND REGISTERED VOTERS IN
19 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND WHO REPRESENT THE RICH ETHNIC, GENDER, AND
20 REGIONAL DIVERSITY THAT IS ENCOMPASSED WITHIN THE COUNTY, APPOINTED
21 JOINTLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION
22 AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SENATE DELEGATION.

23 (C) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION
24 AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SENATE DELEGATION
25 JOINTLY SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE.

26 (D) THE TASK FORCE SHALL COMPLETE A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE
27 ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF
28 ELECTIONS, INCLUDING ITS POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PERFORMANCE IN
29 HANDLING THE ELECTION LAW RESPONSIBILITIES WITH WHICH IT IS CHARGED IN
30 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

31 (E) MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION
32 EXCEPT THAT THE MEMBERS MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
33 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

34 (F) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, THE COUNTY
35 COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, AND THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD

1 OF ELECTIONS JOINTLY SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE TASK FORCE TO
2 THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITHIN EXISTING BUDGETED RESOURCES.

3 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND
4 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOUSE
5 DELEGATION AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SENATE
6 DELEGATION BY DECEMBER 1, 1999.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall remain
8 effective until December 31, 1999, and at the end of December 31, 1999, with no
9 further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no
10 further force and effect.

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
12 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety,
13 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
14 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
15 the date it is enacted.