

HOUSE BILL 832
EMERGENCY BILL

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1999 Regular Session
9r0531

By: Prince George's County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 1999

CHAPTER _____

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

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

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

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

8 18-306.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (5) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OR THE
21 COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S DESIGNEE;

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

24 (7) SIX CITIZENS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF AND REGISTERED VOTERS IN
25 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND WHO REPRESENT THE RICH ETHNIC, GENDER, AND
26 REGIONAL DIVERSITY THAT IS ENCOMPASSED WITHIN THE COUNTY, APPOINTED
27 JOINTLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION
28 AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SENATE DELEGATION.

29 (C) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION
30 AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SENATE DELEGATION
31 JOINTLY SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE.

32 (D) THE TASK FORCE SHALL COMPLETE A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE
33 ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF
34 ELECTIONS, INCLUDING ITS POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PERFORMANCE IN
35 HANDLING THE ELECTION LAW RESPONSIBILITIES WITH WHICH IT IS CHARGED IN
36 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

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

4 (F) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, THE COUNTY
5 COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, AND THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD
6 OF ELECTIONS JOINTLY SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE TASK FORCE TO
7 THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITHIN EXISTING BUDGETED RESOURCES.

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

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

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