
By: **Senators Ruben, Mitchell, Lawlah, McFadden, Hughes, and Forehand**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Stops for Routine Traffic Violations**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Stops for Routine Traffic
4 Violations; specifying the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing
5 that the members of the Task Force are entitled to certain compensation;
6 prohibiting the inclusion of certain information in the data collected by the Task
7 Force; providing for the use of certain data collected by the Task Force;
8 prohibiting certain uses of the data collected by the Task Force; requiring the
9 Task Force to report to the Governor on or before a certain date; and generally
10 relating to the establishment of a Task Force to Study Stops for Routine Traffic
11 Violations.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Stops for Routine Traffic Violations.

15 (b) The Task Force consists of the following 10 members:

16 (1) Two members appointed by the Governor;

17 (2) Two members appointed by the Attorney General;

18 (3) Two members appointed by the Secretary of the State Police; and

19 (4) Four citizens who are residents of and registered voters in the State
20 who represent the rich ethnic, gender, and regional diversity that is encompassed
21 within the State, appointed by the Governor.

22 (c) The Governor shall designate the Chairman of the Task Force.

23 (d) The Task Force staff shall be provided by the Attorney General's office.

24 (e) Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation except that
25 the members may be reimbursed for expenses under the Standard State Travel
26 Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

1 (f) This Task Force shall study:

2 (1) The number of individuals stopped for routine traffic violations;

3 (2) The identifying characteristics of the individual stopped, including
4 age, race or ethnicity;

5 (3) The traffic violations alleged to have been committed that led to the
6 stop;

7 (4) Whether a search was instituted as a result of the stop;

8 (5) If a search was instituted, how the search was conducted and the
9 probable cause for the search;

10 (6) Whether any contraband was discovered in the course of the search
11 and the nature of the contraband;

12 (7) Whether any warning or citation was issued as a result of the stop;

13 (8) Whether an arrest was made as a result of either the stop or the
14 search;

15 (9) The benefit of traffic stops with regard to the interdiction of drugs
16 and the proceeds of drug trafficking, including the approximate quantity of drugs and
17 value of drug proceeds seized on an annual basis as a result of routine traffic stops;
18 and

19 (10) Any other appropriate issues relating to individuals stopped for
20 routine traffic violations.

21 (g) Data acquired by the Task Force may be used only for research or
22 statistical purposes and may not contain any information that may reveal the identity
23 of any individual who is stopped or any law enforcement officer.

24 (h) Data acquired by the Task Force may not be used in any legal or
25 administrative proceeding to establish an inference of discrimination on the basis of
26 particular identifying characteristics.

27 (i) The Task Force shall report the results of the study conducted under this
28 section to the Governor by October 1, 2001.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 1999.