

HOUSE BILL 731

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2000 Regular Session  
0lr1894

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By: **Delegates Boutin, W. Baker, Weir, Riley, Rudolph, Glassman, Schisler,  
Klausmeier, James, and Guns**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2000

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                           **Task Force to Study the Utilization of Lower Eastern Neck Island as a**  
3                           **Depository for Dredge Spoil**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Utilization of Lower  
5 Eastern Neck Island as a Depository for Dredge Spoil; specifying the  
6 membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for the appointment of a  
7 chairman of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from  
8 receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to  
9 receive reimbursement for certain expenses; providing for meetings of the Task  
10 Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General  
11 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for staffing of the Task Force;  
12 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task  
13 Force to Study the Utilization of Lower Eastern Neck Island as a Depository for  
14 Dredge Spoil.

15 BY adding to  
16 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
17 Section 18-318  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

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

23 18-318.

24 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE UTILIZATION OF LOWER EASTERN  
25 NECK ISLAND AS A DEPOSITORY FOR DREDGE SPOIL.

26 (B) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING NINE MEMBERS:

1 (1) THREE MEMBERS FROM THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, TO BE  
2 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

3 (2) THREE MEMBERS FROM THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, TO BE  
4 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

5 (3) THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
6 DESIGNEE;

7 (4) THE SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
8 DESIGNEE; AND

9 (5) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION, TO  
10 BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

11 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT A CHAIRMAN OF THE TASK FORCE.

12 (D) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR  
13 SERVING ON THE TASK FORCE, BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
14 EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN  
15 THE STATE BUDGET.

16 (E) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH AT THE CALL OF  
17 THE CHAIRMAN.

18 (F) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

19 (1) REVIEW THE FEASIBILITY OF UTILIZING LOWER EASTERN NECK  
20 ISLAND AS A DEPOSITORY FOR DREDGE SPOIL FROM UPPER BAY DREDGING;

21 (2) STUDY THE ISSUE OF RECLAIMING LOWER EASTERN NECK ISLAND  
22 AS A WETLAND AREA;

23 (3) STUDY THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND COST IMPLICATIONS OF USING  
24 DREDGE SPOIL FROM UPPER BAY DREDGING OPERATIONS TO RESTORE WETLAND  
25 AREAS IN LOWER EASTERN NECK ISLAND; AND

26 (4) MAKE A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE USE OF LOWER EASTERN  
27 NECK ISLAND.

28 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS TO  
29 THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO  
30 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 2001.

31 (H) THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT SHALL COORDINATE WITH  
32 OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO PROVIDE STAFFING FOR THE TASK FORCE.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
34 October 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and, at  
35 the end of December 31, 2001, with no further action required by the General  
36 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

