

HOUSE BILL 731

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2000 Regular Session
0lr1894

By: **Delegates Boutin, W. Baker, Weir, Riley, Rudolph, Glassman, Schisler, Klausmeier, James, ~~and Guns~~ Guns, Bozman, Busch, Cadden, Cane, Clagett, D'Amato, Eckardt, Rosso, Walkup, Elliott, Stull, Owings, and Hubbard**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2000
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 21, 2000

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments

18-318.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(5) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND

(6) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THAT SERVICE;

(7) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE; AND

(8) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE PORT OF BALTIMORE - PRIVATE SECTOR PORT COMMITTEE.

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

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

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

(F) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

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

1 (2) STUDY THE ISSUE OF RECLAIMING LOWER EASTERN NECK ISLAND
2 OR PARSONS ISLAND AS A WETLAND AREA;

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

6 (4) MAKE A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE USE OF LOWER EASTERN
7 NECK ISLAND OR PARSONS ISLAND.

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

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

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