

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1372 (Delegate Guns)

Environmental Matters

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**Task Force to Study the Potential to Expand the Use of Ethanol as an Alternative Fuel**

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This bill establishes a 12-member Task Force to Study the Potential to Expand the Use of Ethanol as an Alternative Fuel. The task force shall determine ways that the State can expand the use of ethanol in fuels, investigate the infrastructure needs of the State for using ethanol, investigate vehicle needs as related to use of ethanol, determine locations for refueling sites, and analyze economic data on the use of ethanol. The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support for the task force.

The task force must submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2000.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2000, and sunsets June 30, 2002.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for the Department of Agriculture are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** There have been various efforts at the federal level to expand and subsidize the use of ethanol but there are no State programs in effect.

**Background:** Concerns over automobile-emitted pollutants have inspired investigations into various “clean” alternative fuels. Ethanol, a corn based fuel, is one of several options that has been promoted in the past few years.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Department of Agriculture, Comptroller’s Office (Motor Fuel Tax Division), Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2000  
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