
By: **Delegate Giannetti**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2001

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Sound Barrier Policy of the State Highway**
3 **Administration**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Sound Barrier Policy of the
5 State Highway Administration; specifying the membership and duties of the
6 Task Force; providing for the appointment of a chairman of the Task Force;
7 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation;
8 authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain
9 expenses; providing for staffing of the Task Force; providing for meetings of the
10 Task Force; authorizing the Task Force to hold public hearings; requiring the
11 Task Force to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a
12 certain date; prohibiting the State Highway Administration from making
13 expenditures for the construction of sound barriers until the Task Force issues
14 its final report; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Sound
15 Barrier Policy of the State Highway Administration.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Sound Barrier Policy of the State
19 Highway Administration.

20 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following seven members:

21 (1) Two members from the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
22 of the House;

23 (2) Two members from the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
24 President of the Senate; and

25 (3) Three members appointed by the Governor.

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

27 (d) Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation except that
28 the members may be reimbursed for expenses under the Standard State Travel
29 Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

1 (e) The State Highway Administration shall provide staff support for the Task
2 Force to the extent possible within existing budgeted resources.

3 (f) The Task Force shall meet at least once a month at the call of the
4 Chairman.

5 (g) The Task Force is authorized to hold public hearings.

6 (h) The Task Force shall:

7 (1) Evaluate the effectiveness of the State Highway Administration's
8 sound barrier policy;

9 (2) Examine ways to codify sound barrier policy;

10 (3) Determine what portion of the State Highway Administration's
11 budget is currently spent on the construction of sound barriers; and

12 (4) Explore differences among counties in the various contracts for the
13 construction of sound barriers.

14 (i) The Task Force shall issue a final report of its findings and
15 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government
16 Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2001.

17 (j) The State Highway Administration may not make expenditures for the
18 construction of sound barriers until the Task Force issues its final report.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 July 1, 2001.