

**HOUSE BILL 1**  
**EMERGENCY BILL**

Unofficial Copy  
Q7

2002 Regular Session  
2lr1236

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegates Hixson, Taylor, Arnick, Busch, Conway, Dewberry, Doory, Harrison, Howard, Hurson, Kopp, McIntosh, Menes, Montague, Owings, Rawlings, Rosenberg, Vallario, and Wood Wood, W. Baker, Barkley, Bobo, Burns, Cadden, Cane, Carlson, Crouse, C. Davis, DeCarlo, Donoghue, Dypski, Franchot, Frush, Fulton, Giannetti, Gladden, Goldwater, Healey, Hecht, Heller, Hubers, James, A. Jones, V. Jones, Kirk, Love, Mandel, McHale, Minnick, Moe, Parrott, Pitkin, Riley, Rosso, Rudolph, Shriver, Stern, Turner, Valderrama, and Weir**

Requested: November 15, 2001

Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2002

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 2002

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Maryland's Fiscal Structure**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission on Maryland's Fiscal Structure;  
4 requiring the Commission to review and evaluate the State's budget and fiscal  
5 structure; requiring the Commission to make recommendations on changes to  
6 the State budget process and the State tax structure; requiring the Commission  
7 to make recommendations on methods to address certain funding needs for  
8 education, transportation, and health care and for addressing inefficiencies and  
9 improvements in State government services and operations; providing for the  
10 membership of the Commission; providing for the staffing of the Commission;  
11 requiring a final report by a certain date; making this Act an emergency  
12 measure; and generally relating to the Commission on Maryland's Fiscal  
13 Structure.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) There is a Commission on Maryland's Fiscal Structure.

17 (b) The Commission shall review and evaluate the State's current budget and  
18 fiscal structure and make recommendations for:

1 (1) changes to the State budget process ~~and procedures~~, Spending  
 2 Affordability process, and Capital Debt Affordability process that would allow for  
 3 more effective development and enactment of the annual State budget;

4 (2) ensuring that the State will have a progressive tax structure through  
 5 examination of the income, sales, property, excise, and business taxes, including any  
 6 changes that may be necessary to ensure equity and efficiency in the State's tax  
 7 system;

8 (3) methods to address funding sources for the education needs outlined  
 9 in the report of the Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence, the  
 10 transportation needs outlined in the report of the Commission on Transportation  
 11 Investment, and the health care funding needs outlined in recent years;

12 (4) addressing inefficiencies in and improvements to State government  
 13 services and operations; and

14 ~~(3) new State and local revenue sources that may be considered in future~~  
 15 ~~years; and~~

16 ~~(4)~~ (5) changes to the State's tax structure that would allow the State  
 17 to be more competitive with surrounding states regarding economic development.

18 (c) The Commission shall be composed of ~~45~~ 17 members as follows:

19 (1) a chairman appointed by the Governor;

20 (2) ~~two~~ four members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,  
 21 appointed by the President of the Senate;

22 (3) two members of the House Committee on Ways and Means, appointed  
 23 by the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

24 (4) two members of the House Appropriations Committee, appointed by  
 25 the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

26 (5) the Comptroller of the Treasury;

27 ~~(6) the Secretary of the Department of Business and Economic~~  
 28 ~~Development;~~

29 ~~(7) the Director of the Department of Assessments and Taxation;~~

30 (6) a representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

31 (7) a representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

32 (8) ~~the Superintendent of the State Department of Education;~~

33 (9) ~~the Secretary of the Department of Transportation;~~

1           (10)    ~~the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management; and~~

2           (8)      a representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce; and

3           (11)    (9)      ~~two~~ four members of the public, appointed by the Governor.

4       (d)      The Department of Legislative Services, the Department of Business and  
5 Economic Development, and the Comptroller of the Treasury shall provide staff  
6 support to the Commission.

7       (e)      The Commission shall submit a report of its findings and  
8 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
9 Government Article, to the General Assembly by ~~November 1, 2003~~ December 15,  
10 2002.

11       ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take~~  
12 ~~effect July 1, 2002.~~

13       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an  
14 emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health  
15 or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the  
16 members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take  
17 effect from the date it is enacted.