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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Economic Development of the Maryland Seafood**
3 **Industry and Aquaculture Industries**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Economic Development of
5 the Maryland Seafood ~~Industry and Aquaculture Industries~~; specifying the
6 membership and duties of the Task Force, ~~certain workgroups, and a certain~~
7 ~~executive committee; prohibiting a member from participating in certain Task~~
8 ~~Force or workgroup functions under a certain circumstance; prohibiting a~~
9 ~~member from receiving certain compensation, and authorizing the~~
10 ~~reimbursement of certain expenses; providing for the staffing of the Task Force~~
11 ~~and certain workgroups; requiring the Task Force to meet with a certain~~
12 ~~frequency; prohibiting a member from participating in certain Task Force~~
13 ~~activities under a certain circumstance; requiring the Task Force to issue a~~
14 ~~certain report to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly~~
15 ~~on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and~~
16 ~~generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force to Study the Economic~~
17 ~~Development of the Maryland Seafood ~~Industry and Aquaculture Industries~~.~~

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That:

1 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Economic Development of the Maryland
2 Seafood Industry and Aquaculture Industries.

3 (b) ~~The Task Force consists of the following members:~~

4 (1) ~~four members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of~~
5 ~~the House;~~

6 (2) ~~four members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President~~
7 ~~of the Senate;~~

8 (3) ~~the following members appointed by the Secretary of the Maryland~~
9 ~~Department of Natural Resources or the Secretary's designee:~~

10 (i) ~~one representative from the State Department of Agriculture;~~

11 (ii) ~~one representative from the Department of Business and~~
12 ~~Economic Development;~~

13 (iii) ~~one representative from the Department of the Environment;~~
14 ~~and~~

15 (iv) ~~one representative from the Department of Natural Resources;~~

16 (4) ~~the following members appointed by the Governor:~~

17 (i) ~~one representative from an institution or institute in the~~
18 ~~University System of Maryland;~~

19 (ii) ~~one representative from the retail seafood industry; and~~

20 (iii) ~~one member of the Maryland Watermen's Association.~~

21 (b) The Task Force shall consist of two workgroups:

22 (1) the seafood industry workgroup; and

23 (2) the aquaculture industry workgroup.

24 (c) (1) The seafood industry workgroup shall consist of the following 21
25 members:

26 (i) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the
27 Speaker of the House;

28 (ii) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the
29 Senate;

30 (iii) the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee;

- 1 (iv) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development or the
 2 Secretary's designee;
- 3 (v) the Secretary of the Environment or the Secretary's designee;
- 4 (vi) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Secretary's
 5 designee;
- 6 (vii) the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary's designee;
- 7 (viii) three representatives of the University System of Maryland,
 8 appointed by the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland or the Chancellor's
 9 designee as follows:
- 10 1. one representative of the College of Agriculture and
 11 Natural Resources;
- 12 2. one representative of the University of Maryland Eastern
 13 Shore; and
- 14 3. one representative of the Maryland Sea Grant College;
- 15 (ix) two representatives of the Maryland Watermen's Association;
- 16 (x) two representatives of the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries
 17 Association;
- 18 (xi) one representative of the Restaurant Association of Maryland;
- 19 (xii) one representative of the Food Dealers Council of the Maryland
 20 Retailers Association;
- 21 (xiii) one representative of the Maryland Aquaculture Association;
- 22 (xiv) one representative of the seafood processing industry, appointed
 23 by the Secretary of Agriculture; and
- 24 (xv) one representative of the seafood value-added food
 25 manufacturing industry, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- 26 (2) The seafood industry workgroup shall:
- 27 (i) study and develop methods of expanding local and national
 28 markets for Maryland seafood;
- 29 (ii) explore whether existing seafood marketing techniques are
 30 being fully utilized by the industry and, if not, what is needed to increase the
 31 utilization of these techniques;
- 32 (iii) study and develop innovative seafood processing techniques;

- 1 (iv) review the methods other states have implemented to develop
2 their seafood industries;
- 3 (v) consider and include as appropriate in its report the findings of
4 any other task force or work group engaged in a study that impacts the economic
5 development of the seafood industry; and
- 6 (vi) review and evaluate legislative and regulatory issues and
7 permitting procedures to facilitate sustainable development of the industry.
- 8 (d) (1) The aquaculture industry workgroup shall consist of the following 19
9 members:
- 10 (i) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the
11 Speaker of the House;
- 12 (ii) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the
13 Senate;
- 14 (iii) the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee;
- 15 (iv) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development or the
16 Secretary's designee;
- 17 (v) the Secretary of the Environment or the Secretary's designee;
- 18 (vi) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Secretary's
19 designee;
- 20 (vii) the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary's designee;
- 21 (viii) four representatives of the University System of Maryland,
22 appointed by the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland or the Chancellor's
23 designee as follows:
- 24 1. one representative of the University of Maryland
25 Biotechnology Institute;
- 26 2. one representative of the College of Agriculture and
27 Natural Resources;
- 28 3. one representative of the University of Maryland Center
29 for Environmental Science; and
- 30 4. one representative of the Maryland Sea Grant College;
- 31 (ix) one representative of the Maryland Watermen's Association;
- 32 (x) two representatives of the Maryland Aquaculture Association;

1 (xi) one representative of the Food Dealers Council of the Maryland
2 Retailers Association;

3 (xii) one representative of the seafood processing industry, appointed
4 by the Secretary of Agriculture; and

5 (xiii) one representative of the seafood value-added food
6 manufacturing industry, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

7 (2) The aquaculture industry workgroup shall:

8 (i) assess the status, economic viability, and potential of the
9 Maryland aquaculture industry;

10 (ii) assess the economic, technical, and educational requirements
11 for enhancement of the Maryland aquaculture industry;

12 (iii) develop mechanisms to enhance coordination among agencies
13 and the University of Maryland to strengthen the aquaculture industry;

14 (iv) study and recommend innovative methods for aquaculture to
15 target commercial production and restoration of critical species;

16 (v) review methods undertaken in other states to develop their
17 aquaculture industries;

18 (vi) consider and include as appropriate in its report the findings of
19 any other task force or work group engaged in a study that impacts the economic
20 development of the aquaculture industry; and

21 (vii) review and evaluate legislative and regulatory issues and
22 permitting procedures to facilitate sustainable development of the industry.

23 (e) As the need arises, the Task Force or a workgroup may consult with:

24 (1) a representative of a federal agency;

25 (2) a private consultant;

26 (3) a member of the general public; or

27 (4) any other individual with expertise in the area of economic
28 development, the seafood industry, the aquaculture industry, or any other related
29 field.

30 (↔) (f) (1) (i) ~~The Governor~~ Except as prohibited under subparagraph (ii) of
31 this paragraph, the Secretary of Agriculture shall designate one of the members of the
32 Task Force as chairperson of the Task Force.

33 (ii) The Secretary of Agriculture may not serve as the chairperson
34 of the Task Force.

1 (2) The chairperson of the Task Force shall designate a chairperson for
2 each workgroup.

3 (g) (1) The executive committee of the Task Force shall consist of the
4 following 9 members of the Task Force:

5 (i) the chairperson of the Task Force;

6 (ii) the chairperson of each workgroup; and

7 (iii) three additional members of each workgroup, designated by the
8 chairperson of the respective members' workgroup.

9 (2) The chairperson of the Task Force and the executive committee shall:

10 (i) ensure the progress and coordination of the workgroups'
11 activities; and

12 (ii) as appropriate, integrate the findings of both workgroups in the
13 final report of the Task Force.

14 (⊕) (h) The Task Force and each workgroup shall determine the time and
15 place of its meetings.

16 (⊖) ~~A member of the Task Force who misses two or more meetings of the Task~~
17 ~~Force may not participate in the decision making process, reports, or~~
18 ~~recommendations of the Task Force.~~

19 (i) (1) (i) The Task Force shall meet as a whole at least once every 3
20 months.

21 (ii) At each meeting of the Task Force, each workgroup shall report
22 on its progress to date.

23 (2) (i) Except as provided under subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, if
24 a member of the Task Force is absent from more than two meetings of:

25 1. the Task Force, the member may not participate in the
26 decision-making process, report, or recommendations of the Task Force; or

27 2. the member's workgroup, the member may not participate
28 in the decision-making process, report, or recommendations of the workgroup.

29 (ii) A member may not be considered absent from a meeting if:

30 1. the chairperson of the Task Force or workgroup, as
31 applicable, has excused the member's absence in advance of the meeting; or

32 2. another individual designated by the member represents
33 the member at the meeting.

1 ~~(f)~~ (j) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation, but is
2 entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations,
3 as provided in the State budget.

4 ~~(g)~~ The Task Force shall:

5 (1) ~~study and develop methods of expanding the local and national~~
6 ~~market for Maryland seafood;~~

7 (2) ~~explore whether existing seafood marketing techniques are being~~
8 ~~fully employed by the industry and, if not, what is needed to increase the use of these~~
9 ~~techniques;~~

10 (3) ~~study and develop innovative methods of producing seafood, for~~
11 ~~example, aquaculture; and~~

12 (4) ~~review the methods other states, including Alabama, Delaware,~~
13 ~~North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, and Virginia, have~~
14 ~~implemented to further develop their seafood industry.~~

15 ~~(h)~~ (k) The State Department of Agriculture ~~and the Department of~~
16 ~~Business and Economic Development~~ shall provide staff for the Task Force and for
17 each workgroup.

18 ~~(i)~~ (l) On or before September 30, 2004 and in a format considered
19 appropriate by the executive committee, the Task Force shall report ~~its~~ the findings
20 and recommendations of each workgroup, including appropriate legislative or
21 regulatory proposals, to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State
22 Government Article, to the House Environmental Matters ~~Committee~~ and Economic
23 Matters Committees and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
24 Committee.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 ~~October~~ June 1, 2002. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 4 months
27 and, at the end of September 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General
28 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.