
By: **Delegate Franchot**
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Climate Change Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to study the environmental and
4 economic impact of climate change in Maryland; providing for the membership
5 of the Task Force; providing for the duties of the Task Force; requiring the
6 Maryland Energy Administration to coordinate the staffing of the Task Force;
7 requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and General Assembly by a
8 certain date; and generally relating to the establishment of a Climate Change
9 Task Force.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has consistently demonstrated a
12 commitment to preserve and enhance our precious natural resources, particularly the
13 Chesapeake Bay, for the enjoyment of future generations; and

14 WHEREAS, Maryland's economy and the health and quality of life of its citizens
15 are dependent on the careful stewardship of its environmental resources; and

16 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is highly susceptible to the potential impacts
17 of climate change, specifically the coastal lowlands, which are already at risk when
18 tides are high and will become even more so as sea levels rise; and

19 WHEREAS, There are many simple steps such as planting trees and using more
20 energy-efficient appliances which can help mitigate climate change, and which can be
21 coordinated with existing efforts; and

22 WHEREAS, Assessment of the current climate change response programs is
23 required to develop and design a statewide climate change action plan that will
24 identify cost-effective opportunities for climate change mitigation in all areas,
25 including ecological, agricultural, energy, and transportation; now, therefore,

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 MARYLAND, That:

28 (a) There is a Climate Change Task Force.

1 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following 10 members:

2 (1) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
3 of the Senate;

4 (2) One member of the Maryland House of Delegates, appointed by the
5 Speaker of the House;

6 (3) The Secretary of the Environment or a designee;

7 (4) The Secretary of Natural Resources or a designee;

8 (5) The Secretary of Planning or a designee;

9 (6) The Secretary of Transportation or a designee;

10 (7) The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee;

11 (8) The Secretary of General Services or a designee;

12 (9) The Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Smart Growth or a
13 designee; and

14 (10) The Director of the Maryland Energy Administration or a designee.

15 (c) The Director of the Maryland Energy Administration or the Director's
16 designee shall be the Chairman of the Task Force.

17 (d) The Maryland Energy Administration shall coordinate with other State
18 agencies, including the Department of the Environment and the Department of
19 Natural Resources, to provide staff for the Task Force.

20 (e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on
21 the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
22 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

23 (f) The Task Force shall:

24 (1) Develop, in coordination with the Department of the Environment, a
25 2002 greenhouse gas inventory;

26 (2) Evaluate current greenhouse gas mitigation projects and programs
27 run by the Maryland Departments of Transportation, Agriculture, Environment,
28 Natural Resources, the Governor's Office of Smart Growth, and the Maryland Energy
29 Administration and identify opportunities and prioritize measures for greenhouse gas
30 mitigation in each sector;

31 (3) Coordinate with the Energy Committee Chair of the Maryland Green
32 Buildings Council on the Council's efforts to develop a Climate Change Action Plan;
33 and

1 (4) Recommend possible follow-up activities for a climate change
2 advisory group.

3 (g) The Task Force shall meet bimonthly.

4 (h) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
5 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
6 Assembly on or before December 31, 2002.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 July 1, 2002.