
By: **Senator Roesser**
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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Tax Credits for Costs of Providing Telework Benefits to**
3 **Employees**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task force to Study Tax Credits for costs of
5 Providing Telework Benefits to Employees; requiring the Task Force to study
6 the feasibility and potential impacts of allowing a credit against the State
7 income tax for costs incurred by employers that provide teleworker benefits to
8 employees; requiring the Task Force to study the effectiveness of various
9 incentive packages to promote teleworking; requiring the Task Force to make
10 certain recommendations; establishing the membership of the Task Force;
11 providing certain reimbursement for travel expenses; providing certain staff
12 support for the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from
13 receiving certain compensation; requiring the Governor to designate a chairman
14 of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to issue a certain report; providing
15 for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to the purpose of
16 establishment of a Task Force to Study Tax Credits for Costs of Providing
17 Telework Benefits to Employees.

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, Workers are an organization's greatest asset and offering a
20 telework option can help recruit and retain valued employees; and

21 WHEREAS, When employees work in more convenient locations, lost time from
22 sick days, late arrivals, and stressful commutes is translated into productive work
23 periods; and

1 WHEREAS, Technology is changing the workplace both in terms of where work
2 is done and how it is done; and

3 WHEREAS, Maryland's communities can benefit from teleworking, which gives
4 workers more time to spend at home with their families; and

5 WHEREAS, Having fewer commuters on the roads, especially at peak hours,
6 lowers the cost of road maintenance and the demand for building new highways and
7 improves the quality of life for area residents; and

8 WHEREAS, Fewer or shorter commutes mean less air pollution and the
9 conservation of gasoline and other energy sources; and

10 WHEREAS, By lowering the wasted economic cost of traffic congestion and
11 making the region a more attractive place to live and do business, teleworking can
12 improve the region's overall economic health; now, therefore,

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Tax Credits for costs of Providing Telework
16 Benefits to Employees.

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

18 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
19 the Senate;

20 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
21 the House;

22 (3) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the
23 Secretary's designee;

24 (4) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

25 (5) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee; and

26 (6) the following 3 members, appointed by the Governor:

27 (i) one representative of the telecommunications industry;

28 (ii) one representative of the nonprofit sector; and

29 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

30 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

31 (d) The ~~Department of Business and Economic Development~~ Comptroller shall
32 provide staff for the Task Force.

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

4 (f) The Task Force shall:

5 (1) study the feasibility and potential impacts of allowing a credit
6 against the State income tax for costs incurred by employers that provide teleworker
7 benefits to employees; ~~and~~

8 (2) study the effectiveness of various incentive packages to promote
9 teleworking;

10 (3) make recommendations on methods to inform employers of the
11 advantages of teleworking, including the well-being and productivity of teleworking
12 employees; and

13 ~~(2)~~ (4) make recommendations regarding modifications to State law to
14 facilitate teleworking.

15 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
16 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
17 Assembly on or before October 1, 2003.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 January 1, 2003.